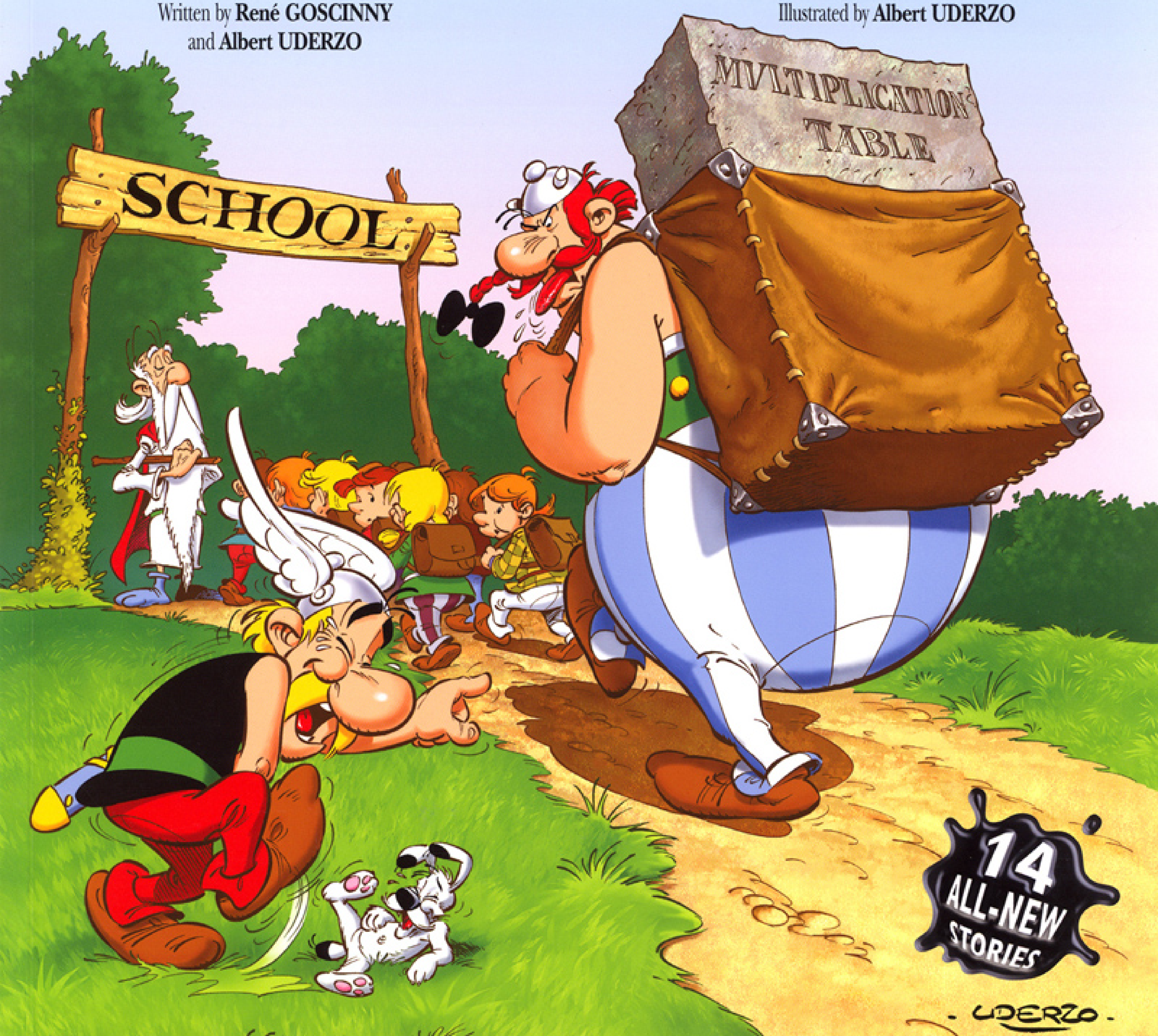
R. GOSCINNY **Asterix** A. UDERZO

Asterix and the class act

Written by René GOSCINNY and Albert UDERZO

Illustrated by Albert UDERZO



GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

PRESENT

Fourteen all-new Asterix stories

Asterix and the class act

Written by RENÉ GOSCINNY *and* ALBERT UDERZO

Illustrated by ALBERT UDERZO



Translated by ANTHEA BELL *and* DEREK HOCKRIDGE

ORION

The French publisher's note

During the 1960s, when René Goscinny and Albert Uderzo had time to spare from writing and drawing the longer Asterix adventures . . . which was not very often . . . they produced some little masterpieces in the form of complete short stories. The French magazine "Pilote", enjoyed by a whole generation of children, in which the Asterix stories first appeared, published most but not all of them. Others appeared in such places as American newspapers, a women's magazine, and as part of a bid for the Olympic Games to be held in Paris. It seemed a good idea to collect all these short stories in a special Asterix album — in fact here at Les Éditions Albert René, we were receiving such terrible threats that we absolutely had to do it. If we didn't publish them, said readers, they would make us eat roast boar for breakfast! So we gave in to the outrageous demands of certain blackmailers whose identity we shall have to reveal one of these days.

But for the moment, having brought these lost treasures to light, we hope you will enjoy reading them. Some of the stories in this book are both written and illustrated by Albert on his own, because they were created after the death in 1977 of his friend and colleague, the other half of the most famous strip cartoon team in the world: René Goscinny and Albert Uderzo.

None of these stories had been published in English before, although several were included in our 1993 collection (see page 47 for the full story).

Seeing his publishers absorbed in the difficult but fascinating task of collecting the stories and improving the original picture quality for "Asterix and the Class Act", Albert set to work again. And in the spring of 2003 he produced the cover design and the words and drawings for a brand-new five-page story, about a cockerel with amazing powers. Will the rooster who wakes the Gauls every morning rouse the children of today to get up and go to school for their own class act?

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THE YEAR IS 50 BC. GAUL IS ENTIRELY OCCUPIED BY THE ROMANS. WELL, NOT ENTIRELY . . . ONE SMALL VILLAGE OF THE INDOMITABLE GAULS STILL HOLDS OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS. AND LIFE IS NOT EASY FOR THE ROMAN LEGIONARIES WHO GARRISON THE FORTIFIED CAMPS OF TOTORUM, AQUARIUM, LAUDANUM AND COMPENDIUM . . .



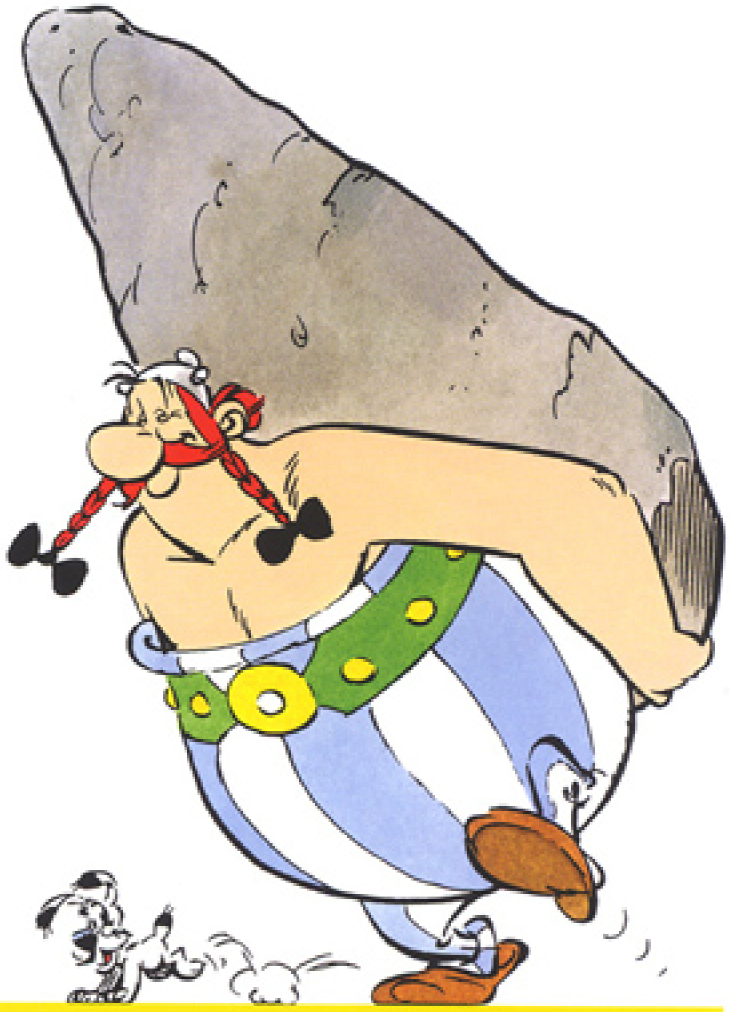
ASTERIX, THE HERO OF THESE ADVENTURES. A SHREWD, CUNNING LITTLE WARRIOR, ALL PERILOUS MISSIONS ARE IMMEDIATELY ENTRUSTED TO HIM. ASTERIX GETS HIS SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH FROM THE MAGIC POTION BREWED BY THE DRUID GETAFIX . . .



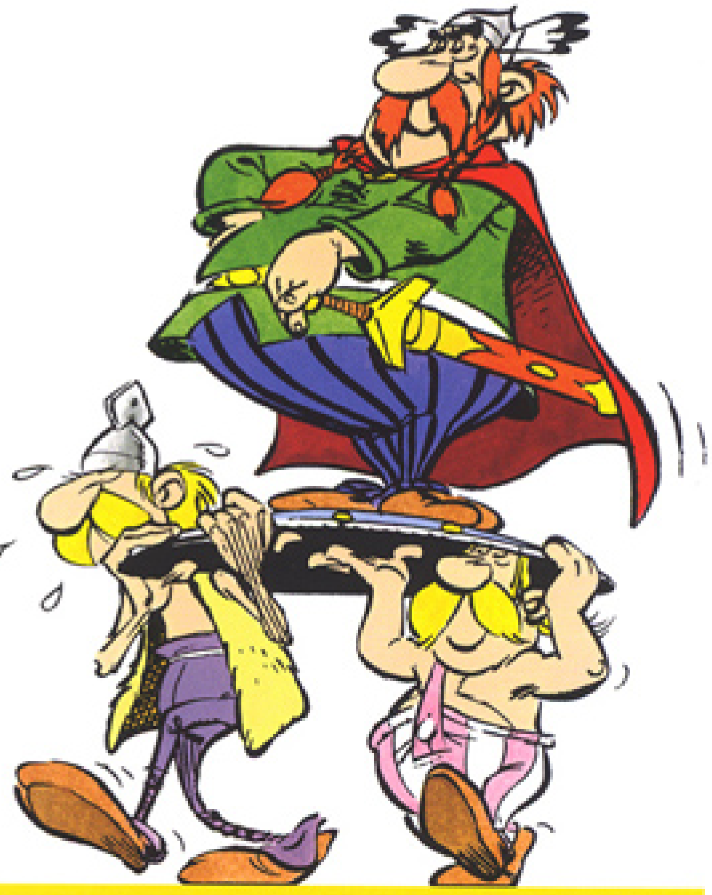
GETAFIX, THE VENERABLE VILLAGE DRUID, GATHERS MISTLETOE AND BREWS MAGIC POTIONS. HIS SPECIALITY IS THE POTION WHICH GIVES THE DRINKER SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH. BUT GETAFIX ALSO HAS OTHER RECIPES UP HIS SLEEVE . . .



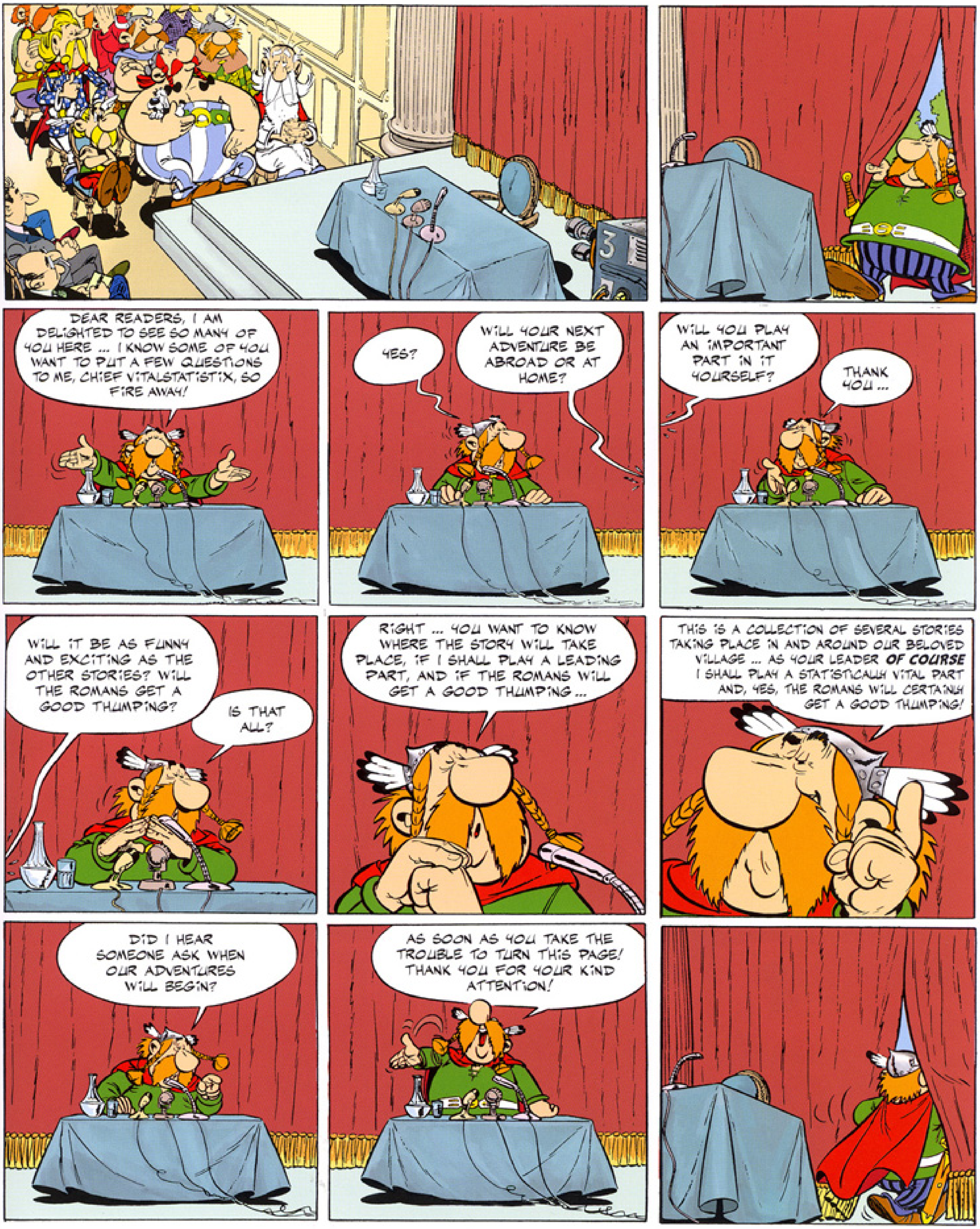
CACOFONIX, THE BARD. OPINION IS DIVIDED AS TO HIS MUSICAL GIFTS. CACOFONIX THINKS HE'S A GENIUS. EVERYONE ELSE THINKS HE'S UNSPEAKABLE. BUT SO LONG AS HE DOESN'T SPEAK, LET ALONE SING, EVERYBODY LIKES HIM . . .



OBELIX, ASTERIX'S INSEPARABLE FRIEND. A MENHIR DELIVERY MAN BY TRADE, ADDICTED TO WILD BOAR. OBELIX IS ALWAYS READY TO DROP EVERYTHING AND GO OFF ON A NEW ADVENTURE WITH ASTERIX – SO LONG AS THERE'S WILD BOAR TO EAT, AND PLENTY OF FIGHTING. HIS CONSTANT COMPANION IS DOGMATIX, THE ONLY KNOWN CANINE ECOLOGIST, WHO HOWLS WITH DESPAIR WHEN A TREE IS CUT DOWN.



FINALLY, VITALSTATISTIX, THE CHIEF OF THE TRIBE. MAJESTIC, BRAVE AND HOT-TEMPERED, THE OLD WARRIOR IS RESPECTED BY HIS MEN AND FEARED BY HIS ENEMIES. VITALSTATISTIX HIMSELF HAS ONLY ONE FEAR, HE IS AFRAID THE SKY MAY FALL ON HIS HEAD TOMORROW. BUT AS HE ALWAYS SAYS, TOMORROW NEVER COMES.


DEAR READERS, I AM DELIGHTED TO SEE SO MANY OF YOU HERE ... I KNOW SOME OF YOU WANT TO PUT A FEW QUESTIONS TO ME, CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX, SO FIRE AWAY!
YES?
WILL YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE BE ABROAD OR AT HOME?
WILL YOU PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN IT YOURSELF?
THANK YOU ...
WILL IT BE AS FUNNY AND EXCITING AS THE OTHER STORIES? WILL THE ROMANS GET A GOOD THUMPING?
IS THAT ALL?
RIGHT ... YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE THE STORY WILL TAKE PLACE, IF I SHALL PLAY A LEADING PART, AND IF THE ROMANS WILL GET A GOOD THUMPING ...
THIS IS A COLLECTION OF SEVERAL STORIES TAKING PLACE IN AND AROUND OUR BELOVED VILLAGE ... AS YOUR LEADER ***OF COURSE*** I SHALL PLAY A STATISTICALLY VITAL PART AND, YES, THE ROMANS WILL CERTAINLY GET A GOOD THUMPING!
DID I HEAR SOMEONE ASK WHEN OUR ADVENTURES WILL BEGIN?
AS SOON AS YOU TAKE THE TROUBLE TO TURN THIS PAGE! THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION!

Asterix and the class act

06 October 1966

Written by René Goscinny - Illustrated by Albert Uderzo

The magazine "Pilote" published 52 issues a year, so the editorial team had to rack its brains to think up new stories every week.

When the beginning of the new school year came round, it seemed an ideal subject. René and Albert thought about the logistical problems facing the Gauls in getting their children to school. Here we see them, rather in advance of their time, using the equivalent of the school bus in the year 50 BC. René sat down at his typewriter and soon sent Albert the text. "One of René's talents," Albert Uderzo still remembers, "was a gift for adapting his stories for different artists. Morris hated wordplay, so René didn't use it in the "Lucky Luke" cowboy stories that Morris illustrated. Tabary, who illustrated René's stories about the wicked Arabian Nights vizier "Iznogoud" loved puns, so those books are full of them." There was total sympathy and understandin between René and Albert, who were great friends and equal partners. They never fel the slightest anxiety about the quality of each other's work. The cover of the magazine "Pilote" was created by Albert.





"Pilote", n° 363



Asterix and the CLASS ACT
TEXT: GOSCINNY
DRAWINGS: UDERZO
PUT THAT MENHIR DOWN, OBELIX! TODAY'S THE DAY!
WHAT, ALREADY? OH NO!
OH YES, OBELIX! YOU KNOW YOU PUT YOUR MENHIR DOWN ON THIS DAY EVERY YEAR!
THE FACT IS, I FEEL A LITTLE WEAK, ASTERIX, AND...
AND YOU KNOW GETAFIX WANTS US TO PICK UP KIDS, NOT MEN-HIRS, SO DON'T GROUSE!
GRGNGRGNGRGN GROGNGROGN!
I'M NOT GROUSING! I JUST FEEL A LITTLE WEAK!
BONG!
AHA! THERE'S SOMEONE IN THOSE BUSHES!
1A
AAAH! NOOO! MALE CHAUVINIST BOAR!
WHOOSH!
BRUTAL MISOGYNIST!
?
SUCH LANGUAGE! WHERE DO THEY PICK IT UP?
EVERYTHING OKAY, OBELIX?
YOU BET! WE'RE A REAL CLASS ACT!
ONE MORE TRIP AND THAT'LL BE ALL THE TINY TOTS.
HEY! COME HERE, WILL YOU?
COME DOWN! COME DOWN THIS MINUTE, BY BELENOS!
WON'T, BY TOUTATIS, SO THERE!
1B


YOOWWL YOWL!
BUT I HAD TO PICK THE PRETTY TREE, DOGMATIX!
IT'S SOOO UNFAIR! WE'RE THE YOOF CULTURE! LET US DO OUR THING!
THERE WE ARE ... ALL TOTTED UP.
CHILDREN, I'M ASHAMED OF YOU. EVERY NEW SCHOOL YEAR YOU HAVE TO BE ROUNDED UP LIKE WILD BOAR PIGLETS! YOU KNOW YOU MUST GO TO SCHOOL IF YOU'RE TO BE GOOD GAULS!
SO WHY DON'T ASTERIX AND OBELIX GO TO SCHOOL, O DRUID?
THEY DID AT YOUR AGE, AND THEY WORKED HARD. RIGHT, THIS IS CLASSROOM CHALLENGE!
A B
C D
OBELIX, FOR A STARTER: DATE OF THE BATTLE OF GERGOVIA?
UM... ER...
2A
THE BATTLE WE WON?
THE BATTLE WE WON!
MDXV!
WOULD IT BE MDXV?
NO, IT WOULD NOT BE MDXV!
THE BATTLE OF GERGOVIA ...
COME ON, COME ON! I WANT AN ANSWER.
I
+I
=II
2B

The birth of Asterix
October 1994

Written and illustrated by Albert Uderzo

To celebrate 35 years of Asterix stories, we decided to publish an Asterix Special for the little Gaul's birthday, a one-off magazine in the spirit of "Pilote" in the 1960s. We got together famous names and European authors who wanted to pay tribute to Asterix and his friends. As part of our project, of course, we hoped for a new Asterix story.

It was in a plane bound for Copenhagen in the spring of 1994 that Albert Uderzo told us, with relish, about his idea for an original story to celebrate the birthday. He was already looking forward to revealing the secret of the birth of Asterix and Obelix, and at the same time he told us the names of the older generation: Asterix's parents Astronomix and Sarsaparilla, and Obelix's father and mother Obeliscoidix and Vanilla.



"Le Journal exceptionnel d'Astérix"


IN THE year 35 B.C.*
* BEFORE CAESAR
GAUL IS ENTIRELY OCCUPIED ... WITH ENJOYING A PERIOD OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY, AND DOES NOT HOLD OUT AGAINST LIVING THE LIFE OF RILIX.* SUCH WAS THE CASE IN ONE SMALL VILLAGE IN ARMORICA, WHICH WOULD MAKE NEWS LATER, AFTER THE ROMAN CONQUEST.
*ANCIENT GAUL KNOWN FOR HIS LOVE OF LUXURY
COMING OUT TO PLAY, VITALSTATISTIX?
ALL RIGHT, BUT REMEMBER I'M THE CHIEF!
SO WHY ITH IT ALWAYTH YOU WHO PLAYTH THE CHIEF?
BECAUSE MY DAD IS THE CHIEF OF THIS VILLAGE. HE'S THE BOSS! THAT'S WHY!
OH YEAH? WELL, MY DAD SAYTH YOUR DAD OUGHT TO BE MATHTER IN HITH OWN HOUTHE BEFORE BOTHING THE VILLAGE ABOUT!
WHAT WAS THAT?
SAY THAT AGAIN IF YOU DARE!
HE'S RIGHT!
I'M ABOUT TO LOTHE MY TEMPER, THO WATCH OUT!
NO, HE'S WRONG!
HE'S RIGHT!
NO, HE'S WRONG!
CLUCK! SQUAWK!
PUT THAT CHICKEN DOWN, YOU FOUL PESTS!
BANG! BANG!
AREN'T YOU ASHAMED OF YOURSELVES, FIGHTING LIKE LITTLE BARBARIANS?
SQUAWK!


FOLLOW YOUR PARENTS' EXAMPLE! SEE HOW THEY RESPECT THE PEACE OF OUR LAW-ABIDING VILLAGE!
A LITTLE LATER...
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU NOT TO FIGHT YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS!!
A CHIEF'S SON SHOULD SET AN EXAMPLE, BY TOUTATIS!
WELL THE FACT IS...
ANCIENT TIMES
THE FACT IS WHAT, EH? WHAT?
WELL ... IT WAS FULLIAUTOMATIX'S FAULT. HE'S SEMI-AUTOMATIX'S SON ... HE SAYS HIS DAD SAYS YOU OUGHT TO BE MASTER IN YOUR OWN HOUSE BEFORE BOSSING THE VILLAGE ABOUT!
AND JUST WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
FOR A LITTLE WALK ... WON'T BE LONG!
SO I HEAR YOU SAY I OUGHT TO BE MASTER IN MY OWN HOUSE, IS THAT RIGHT?
COULD BE. SO WHAT?
CLANG! CLANG!
SO THIS!
BONG!
UNHEALTHIX
WELL DONE, CHIEF! YOU SCORED A HIT!
SCHTONG!
SPLATCH!
MISSED!
Fish UNHEALTHIX Shellfish



AND HERE WE SEE THE VERY FIRST IN A LONG SERIES OF FISH FIGHTS IN THE GAULISH VILLAGE.
UNHEALT
YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELVES, FIGHTING IN FRONT OF YOUR CHILDREN!
MEANWHILE ...
OFF YOU GO, ASTRONOMIX! THIS IS NO PLACE FOR YOU! LEAVE IT ALL TO US!
DO BE SENSIBLE, OBELISCOIDIX! YOU WON'T BE ANY USE IN THERE!
RRY
COIDIX
3A
IT'S GALLING FOR A GAUL TO BE SO HELPLESS AT A TIME LIKE THIS, DON'T YOU THINK, OBELISCOIDIX?
YUP ... AND WHEN I FEEL GALLED I GET HUNGRY!
SPLATCH!
FOLLOW ME! THIS WILL CALM US DOWN!
STOP THAT! THIS IS NO DAY FOR VULGAR BRAWLS!
3B

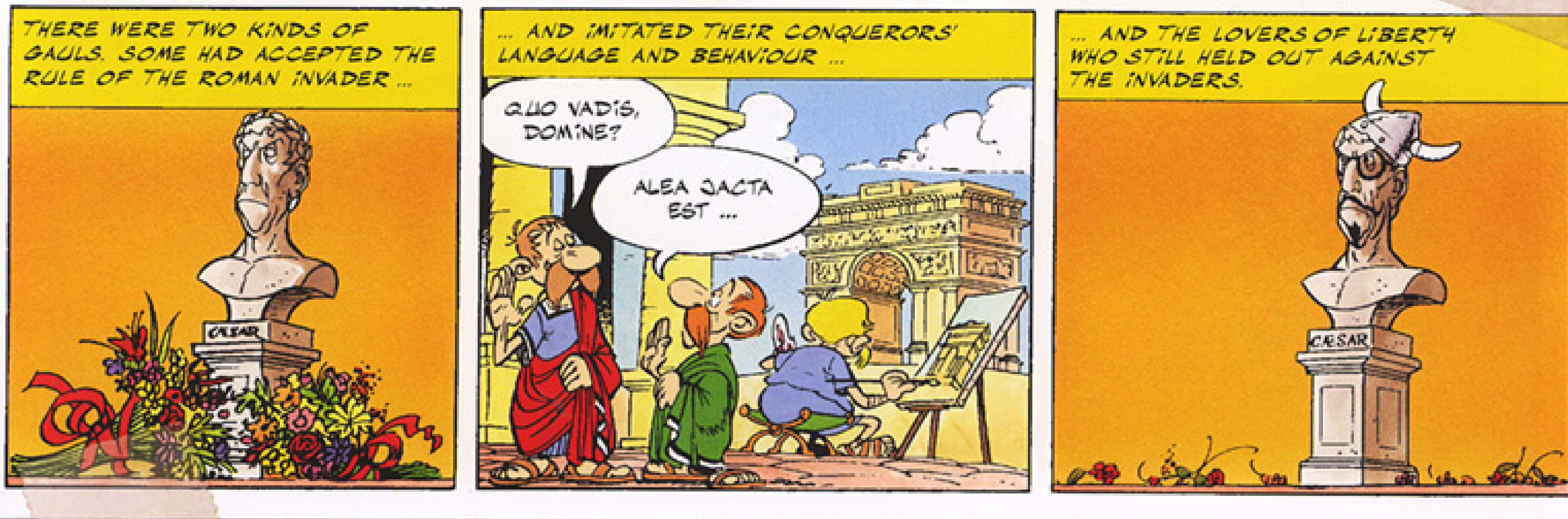

!
LET'S CONGRATULATE THE HAPPY FATHERS OF THESE TWO NEWBORN GAULS INSTEAD!
I HAVE A SON!!!
ME TOO!!!
HIS NAME IS ASTERIX AND HE'LL BE AS BIG AND STRONG AS HIS DAD!
MINE IS CALLED OBELIX AND HE'LL BE AS SHREWD AND CUNNING AS HIS FATHER!
BORN AT THE SAME TIME AND ON THE SAME DAY, BY TOUTATIS! IT'S A SIGN THAT THEY'LL BE BEST FRIENDS FOR EVER!
A FEW DAYS AFTER THE BIRTH OF THE TWO BABIES, THE WHOLE VILLAGE MEETS TO CELEBRATE THE HAPPY EVENT. THERE IS A BANQUET, WITH PLENTY OF ROAST WILD BOAR.
WHEN I GROW UP I SHALL SING ODES IN THEIR PRAISE.
OH YETH? WE'LL THEE ABOUT THAT!
ONE OF THEM'S A LOT FATTER THAN THE OTHER.
HE'S NOT FAT, JUST WELL COVERED, THAT'S ALL!
FUNNY, HE SEEMS TO LIKE THE SMELL OF ROAST BOAR ALREADY!
AND 35 YEARS LATER THE ADVENTURES OF ASTERIX AND HIS FAITHFUL COMPANION OBELIX BEGIN. LATER STILL THEY WILL BE TOLD BY TWO OTHER FIRM FRIENDS, HOPING ONLY TO PROVIDE A LITTLE FUN FOR READERS BOTH LARGE AND SMALL.
- UDERZO - 94

In 50 BC
May 1977

Written by René Goscinny - Illustrated by Albert Uderzo

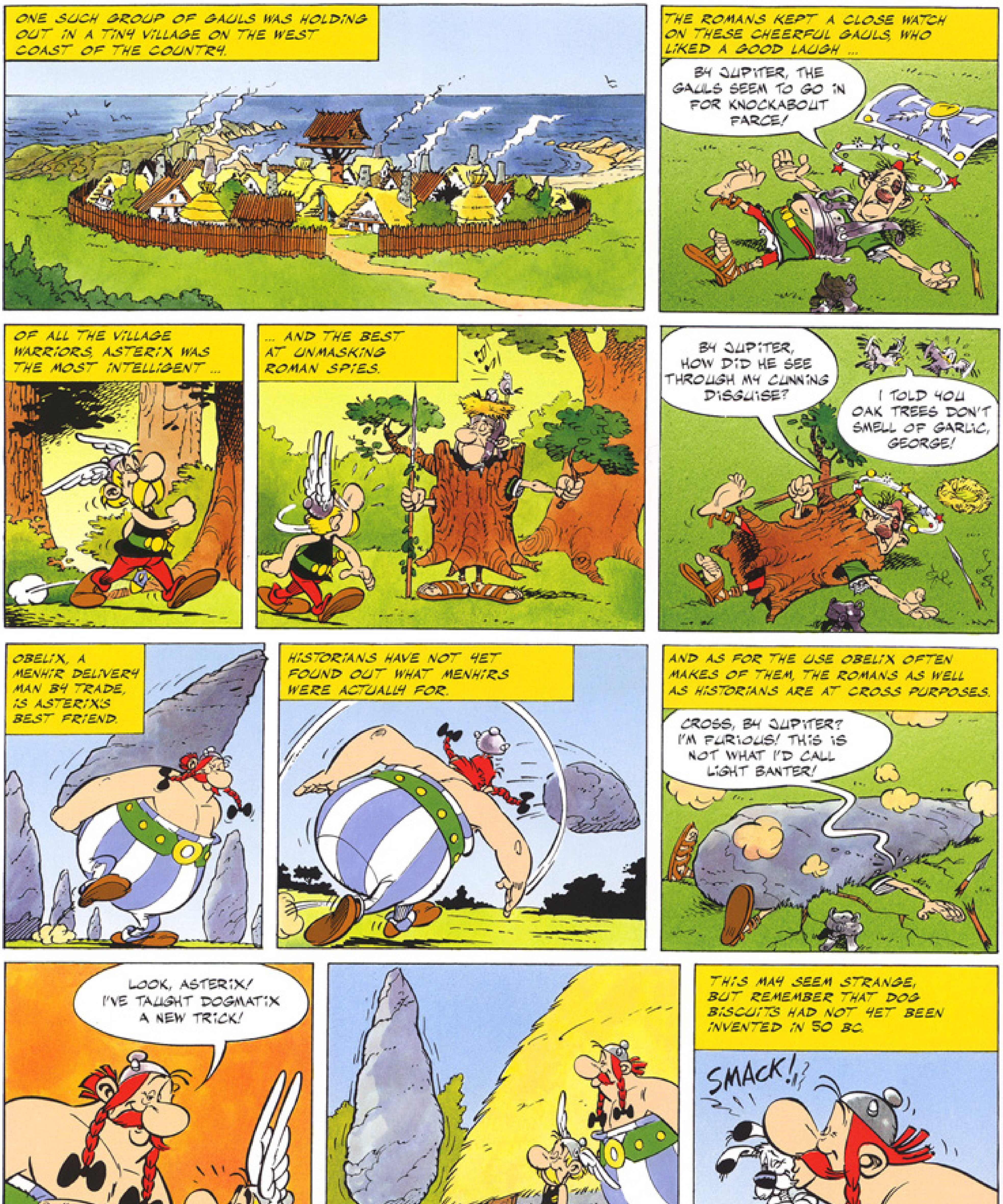
Georges Dargaud, the publisher of "Pilote" and the Asterix books, wanted to see his leading series reach the American market. The head of an American syndicate visited Paris to meet the creators of the phenomenally successful character Asterix, and they soon came to an agreement. An Asterix album would be published in daily instalments in a number of American papers. René and Albert were delighted but cautious, and thought it might be a good idea to present the world of Asterix to the Americans in an original, condensed form before embarking on the publication of a whole story. The result was these three pages, which for a long time were unknown even in France. Enjoy!

It was the famous "National Geographic" magazine that published them in May 1977, when it was running a major piece about the Gauls. However, the authors' efforts went unrewarded. Publication in American strip cartoon format meant reducing the size of the pictures, which made it difficult to read the speech bubbles. As the authors did not want to have their original work modified beyond the adaptations usual in translation, the experiment ended after the first album — since René and Albert declined an offer for them to go and live in the USA so as to suit their work to the "American format".



"National Geographic"


IN 50 BC
THE ROMAN ARMY
HAD OCCUPIED THE
ENTIRE KNOWN WORLD ...
SPQR
THEIR GENERAL JULIUS CAESAR, NOW AT THE HEIGHT OF HIS POWER, WAS STILL DREAMING OF NEW CONQUESTS ...
ARE YOU QUITE SURE THERE'S NOTHING OVER THERE?
ATLANTIC OCEAN
IN ROME, JULIUS CAESAR WENT FROM TRIUMPH TO TRIUMPH ...
... WITH CAPTIVES FROM DEFEATED NATIONS FOLLOWING HIS CHARIOT IN CHAINS ...
DO YOU THINK THEY'LL GIVE US THE AFTERNOON OFF TO GO SHOPPING?
WILL WE GET TO VISIT THE CIRCUS?
NICE TOWN, I SAY, WHAT, BUT A BIT TOO LATIN FOR MY TASTE!
To fisit it iss not bad, but to liff in 1 vould it not like.
NO. DID YOU SEE THE PRICES?
AMONG THOSE DEFEATED NATIONS WAS GAUL.
TODAY THE FRENCH LIVE IN GAUL, AND IT IS CALLED FRANCE.
HOW ARE YOU, SIR?
MUSTN'T GRUMBLE WHILE IT KEEPS FINE.
CAFÉ
THE ANCESTORS OF THE FRENCH WERE KNOWN AS GAULS.
HOW ARE YOU, SIR?
MUSTN'T GRUMBLE WHILE THE SKY DOESN'T FALL ON OUR HEADS ...
?
THERE WERE TWO KINDS OF GAULS. SOME HAD ACCEPTED THE RULE OF THE ROMAN INVADER ...
CAESAR
... AND IMITATED THEIR CONQUERORS' LANGUAGE AND BEHAVIOUR ...
QUO VADIS, DOMINE?
ALEA JACTA EST ...
... AND THE LOVERS OF LIBERTY WHO STILL HELD OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS.
CAESAR


ONE SUCH GROUP OF GAULS WAS HOLDING OUT IN A TINY VILLAGE ON THE WEST COAST OF THE COUNTRY.
THE ROMANS KEPT A CLOSE WATCH ON THESE CHEERFUL GAULS, WHO LIKED A GOOD LAUGH ...
BY JUPITER, THE GAULS SEEM TO GO IN FOR KNOCKABOUT FARCE!
OF ALL THE VILLAGE WARRIORS, ASTERIX WAS THE MOST INTELLIGENT ...
... AND THE BEST AT UNMASKING ROMAN SPIES.
BY JUPITER, HOW DID HE SEE THROUGH MY CUNNING DISGUISE?
I TOLD YOU OAK TREES DON'T SMELL OF GARLIC, GEORGE!
OBELIX, A MENHIR DELIVERY MAN BY TRADE, IS ASTERIX'S BEST FRIEND.
HISTORIANS HAVE NOT YET FOUND OUT WHAT MENHIRS WERE ACTUALLY FOR.
AND AS FOR THE USE OBELIX OFTEN MAKES OF THEM, THE ROMANS AS WELL AS HISTORIANS ARE AT CROSS PURPOSES.
CROSS, BY JUPITER? I'M FURIOUS! THIS IS NOT WHAT I'D CALL LIGHT BANTER!
LOOK, ASTERIX! I'VE TAUGHT DOGMATIX A NEW TRICK!
THIS MAY SEEM STRANGE, BUT REMEMBER THAT DOG BISCUITS HAD NOT YET BEEN INVENTED IN 50 BC.
SMACK!



LIKE THE OTHER VILLAGERS, DOGMATIX GETS HIS AMAZING STRENGTH FROM THE MAGIC POTION BREWED BY THE DRUID GETAFIX.
THIS MAGIC POTION HAS A SPECTACULAR EFFECT ON THE GAULS ...
YOU KNOW DOGMATIX HATES PEOPLE TO PULL UP TREES!
BUT I ONLY GAVE IT A TINY TAP!
... AND THE ROMANS TOO.
BY JUPITER, THAT GAULISH BREW PACKS A PUNCH!
THE BARD CACOFONIX IS ANOTHER PROMINENT VILLAGER ...
OH TO BE IN ARMORICA NOW THAT APRIL'S ...
... HERE!
... AND SO IS FULLIAUTOMATIX THE BLACKSMITH, WHO IS ALSO PROBABLY THE ANCESTOR OF ALL MUSIC CRITICS.
THE VILLAGE CHIEF IS THE MAJESTIC VITALSTATISTIX ...
THERE'S NO DISCIPLINE IN THIS VILLAGE ANY MORE! NO RESPECT! YOU ARE ALL TO BOW TO ME AND MY AUTHORITY!
BUT CHIEF, YOU SAID YOURSELF ...
I WANTED THE OTHERS TO BOW, YOU FOOLS, NOT YOU!
AS THERE IS NOTHING THE ROMANS CAN DO ABOUT THE SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH OF THE GAULISH VILLAGERS ...
BY JUPITER, TO THINK THERE'S XVIII YEARS TO GO BEFORE I'M DEMOBBED!
THE GAULS (OR MOST OF THEM) REMAIN FREE AND HAPPY.
UDERZO & GOSCINNY

Chanticleerix
August 2003

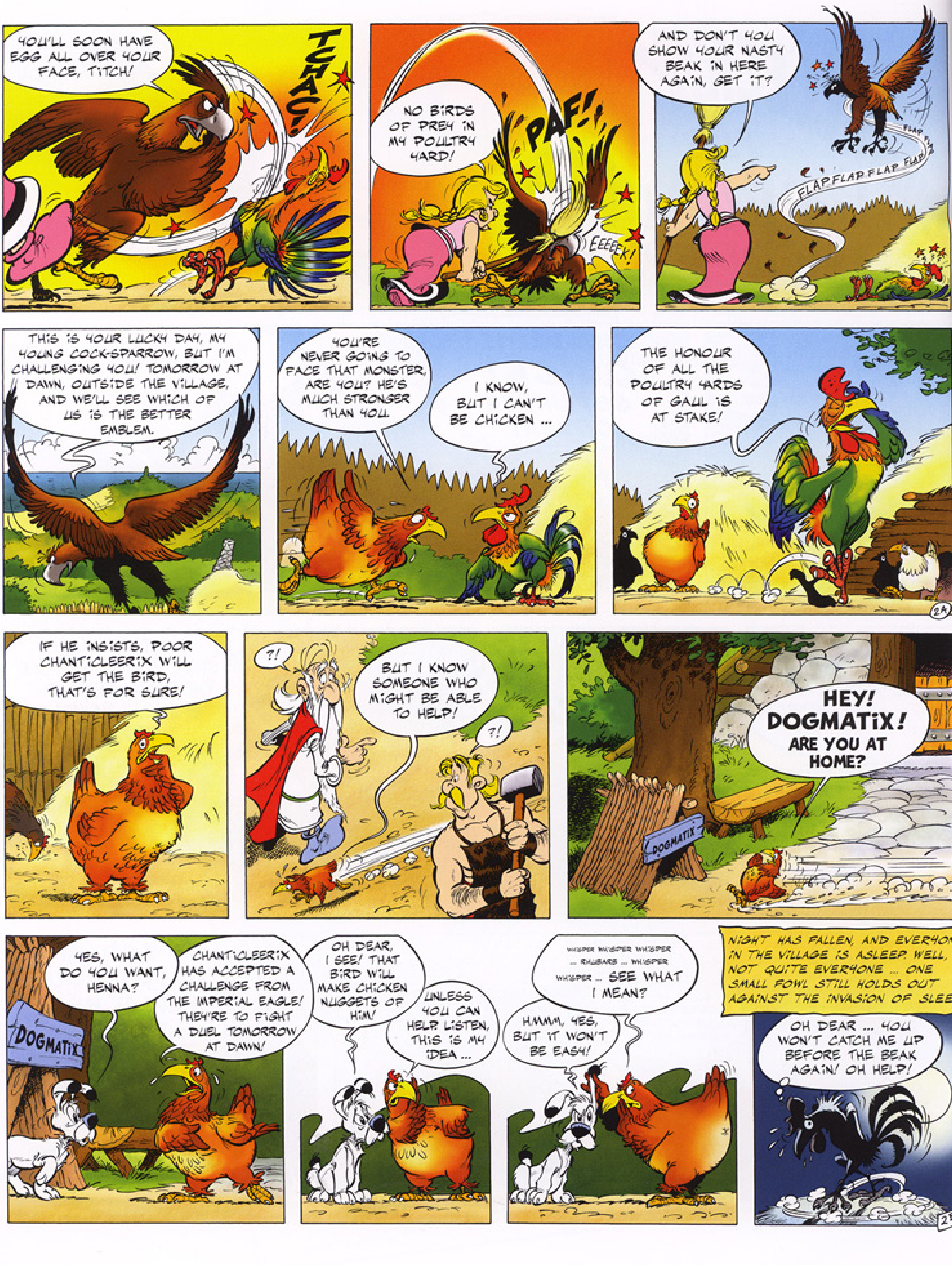
Written and illustrated by Albert Uderzo

Never before published, this five-page story was finished in May 2003 and is about the village cockerel. It adds to Albert Uderzo's carnival of animals. He has always been particularly fond of chickens. Every Asterix album contains hens and cockerels leading their private and obviously harmonious family lives in the corners of the pictures. The idea for this story came from a projected film spin-off. With René Goscinny, Albert Uderzo once planned a pilot for an animated cartoon film starring Dogmatix — a rarity which has remained unknown. But when he looked at it again 30 years later, Albert thought he would like to write a new story about the birds who share the village with the indomitable Gauls. You might think that the magical forest of Broceliande, not far from the Gaulish village, had given them new powers — but don't tell Obelix!



Gaulish Cockerel


CHANTICLEERIX THE Gaulish Cockerel
UDERZO
IT IS OFTEN THOUGHT THAT ANIMALS HAVE THEIR OWN LANGUAGE AND UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER. WE SEE THE PROOF OF IT IN THE FOLLOWING STORY, WHICH BEGINS IN THE SKIES OF ARMORICA, JUST ABOVE A LITTLE VILLAGE THAT WE KNOW WELL.
TEEHEE! THOSE GAULS HAVE PROVIDED MY IMPERIAL MAJESTY WITH A FINE APPETIZER!
CHILDREN! QUICK! GET UNDER COVER!
CLUCK!
?!
WHAT IS IT, MUMMY?
IT'S A NASTY BIRD WHO CARRIES OFF BABY CHICKS TO EAT THEM, THAT'S WHAT IT IS!
1A
AHA! A BLACK CHICK STILL IN THE OPEN! HE'S GOING CHEAP!
CHEEP! CHEEP!!
NONE OF THAT! SHUT YOUR BIG BEAK OR YOU'LL FEEL MINE IN SHORT PECKING ORDER!!!
?
CRAAASH
SKIDDDD
HO, HO, HO! YOU THINK A FOUL FOWL LIKE YOU SCARES ME? WHY, YOU CAN'T EVEN FLY!
MAYBE NOT, BUT I AM THE EMBLEM OF THE GAULS, I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW, MISTER!
THEN LET ME TELL YOU, GALLINARIUS MINUS, THAT I AM THE EMBLEM OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE!
YOU KNOW WHAT GALLITHINGUMMY MINUS SAYS TO YOU?
GO BOIL AN EGG AND YOUR IMPERIAL HEAD TOO!
1B


YOU'LL SOON HAVE EGG ALL OVER YOUR FACE, TITCH!
TCHAC!
NO BIRDS OF PREY IN MY POULTRY YARD!
PAF!
EEEEEK!
AND DON'T YOU SHOW YOUR NASTY BEAK IN HERE AGAIN, GET IT?
FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP
THIS IS YOUR LUCKY DAY, MY YOUNG COCK-SPARROW, BUT I'M CHALLENGING YOU! TOMORROW AT DAWN, OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE, AND WE'LL SEE WHICH OF US IS THE BETTER EMBLEM.
YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO FACE THAT MONSTER, ARE YOU? HE'S MUCH STRONGER THAN YOU.
I KNOW, BUT I CAN'T BE CHICKEN ...
THE HONOUR OF ALL THE POULTRY YARDS OF GAUL IS AT STAKE!
IF HE INSISTS, POOR CHANTICLEERIX WILL GET THE BIRD, THAT'S FOR SURE!
?!
BUT I KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP!
?!
HEY! DOGMATIX! ARE YOU AT HOME?
DOGMATIX
YES, WHAT DO YOU WANT, HENNA?
DOGMATIX
CHANTICLEERIX HAS ACCEPTED A CHALLENGE FROM THE IMPERIAL EAGLE! THEY'RE TO FIGHT A DUEL TOMORROW AT DAWN!
OH DEAR, I SEE! THAT BIRD WILL MAKE CHICKEN NUGGETS OF HIM!
UNLESS YOU CAN HELP. LISTEN, THIS IS MY IDEA ...
WHISPER WHISPER WHISPER ... RHUBARB ... WHISPER WHISPER ... SEE WHAT I MEAN?
HMMM, YES, BUT IT WON'T BE EASY!
NIGHT HAS FALLEN, AND EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE IS ASLEEP. WELL, NOT QUITE EVERYONE ... ONE SMALL FOWL STILL HOLDS OUT AGAINST THE INVASION OF SLEEP.
OH DEAR ... YOU WON'T CATCH ME UP BEFORE THE BEAK AGAIN! OH HELP!



AND NEXT MORNING AT DAWN ...
LET'S GO OUT IN THE FOREST AND PICK A FEW NICE BOARS FOR BREAKFAST.
OOH, YES! I LOVE PICKING THEM OFF WITH THE MORNING DEW STILL ON THEM!
DOGMATIX
THAT'S ODD, OBELIX. DOGMATIX HASN'T COME HUNTING WITH US!
YES, HE'LL BE BARKING MAD WHEN HE FINDS OUT!
DOGMATIX
DOGMATIX
WHAT LUCK! ASTERIX DIDN'T TAKE IT WITH HIM.
THE MAGIC POTION!!! YOU DID IT, DOGMATIX!
YOU DUMB CLUCK!
TCHPRRR
WHERE'S CHANTICLEERIX?
FOLLOW ME! HE'S HIDING BEHIND THE HENHOUSE DOING PRESS-UPS!
DOGMATIX HAS BROUGHT YOU A SECRET WEAPON. YOU CAN DEFEAT YOUR IMPERIAL ENEMY WITH IT!
?!
TWENTY-ONE, TWENTY-TWO ... WHAT IS IT? TWENTY-THREE, TWENTY ...
MAGIC POTION!
!?
ER ... ARE YOU SURE POTION GOES WELL WITH CHICKEN?
DUNNO ... IT'S A RISK YOU HAVE TO TAKE!
HEY... NO SKIVING OFF! THE VILLAGERS NEED THEIR ALARM CALL!
OKAY, OKAY ... **COCKADOODLE DO!** THAT DO YOU?
I'LL TAKE THE GOURD BACK BEFORE ASTERIX NOTICES THAT IT'S GONE!
GLUG! GLUG!


YOOHOOOOOO!
SEEMS TO BE WORKING!
YEF, IT FEEMF ...
?!
... TO BE FURKING!
OOH, ISN'T HE HANDSOME! AND HE'S FLYING!!
YEF, THAT'F NORMAL WHEN YOU'RE ON THE POTION! BYE NOW, HENNA!
I STILL DON'T SEE THAT GAULISH CHAMPION! HAS HE CHICKENED OUT?
TCHAC!
WH ... WHAT HAPPENED?
I'VE BEEN PLUCKED!
SPLATCH!


COCKADOODLE DO! AND I DID! COCKADOODLE-DOOO!
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
MEANWHILE ...
OH, THERE YOU ARE, YOU LITTLE RASCAL! WHAT WERE YOU DOING WHILE WE WERE GETTING BREAKFAST?
JUST GIVING THE VILLAGE COCKEREL A HELPING PAW!
DOGMATIX
GOOD FOR YOU!
WHAT DID YOU SAY, OBELIX?
OH, NOTHING! DOGMATIX JUST TOLD ME HE'D BEEN GIVING THE VILLAGE COCKEREL A HELPING PAW.
!
?!
WOOF! WOOF! WOOF!
...!
SOMETIMES I WONDER IF OBELIX ACTS STUPID JUST TO ANNOY ME!
2003
UDERZO

THE END

For Gaul Lang Syne

07 December 1967

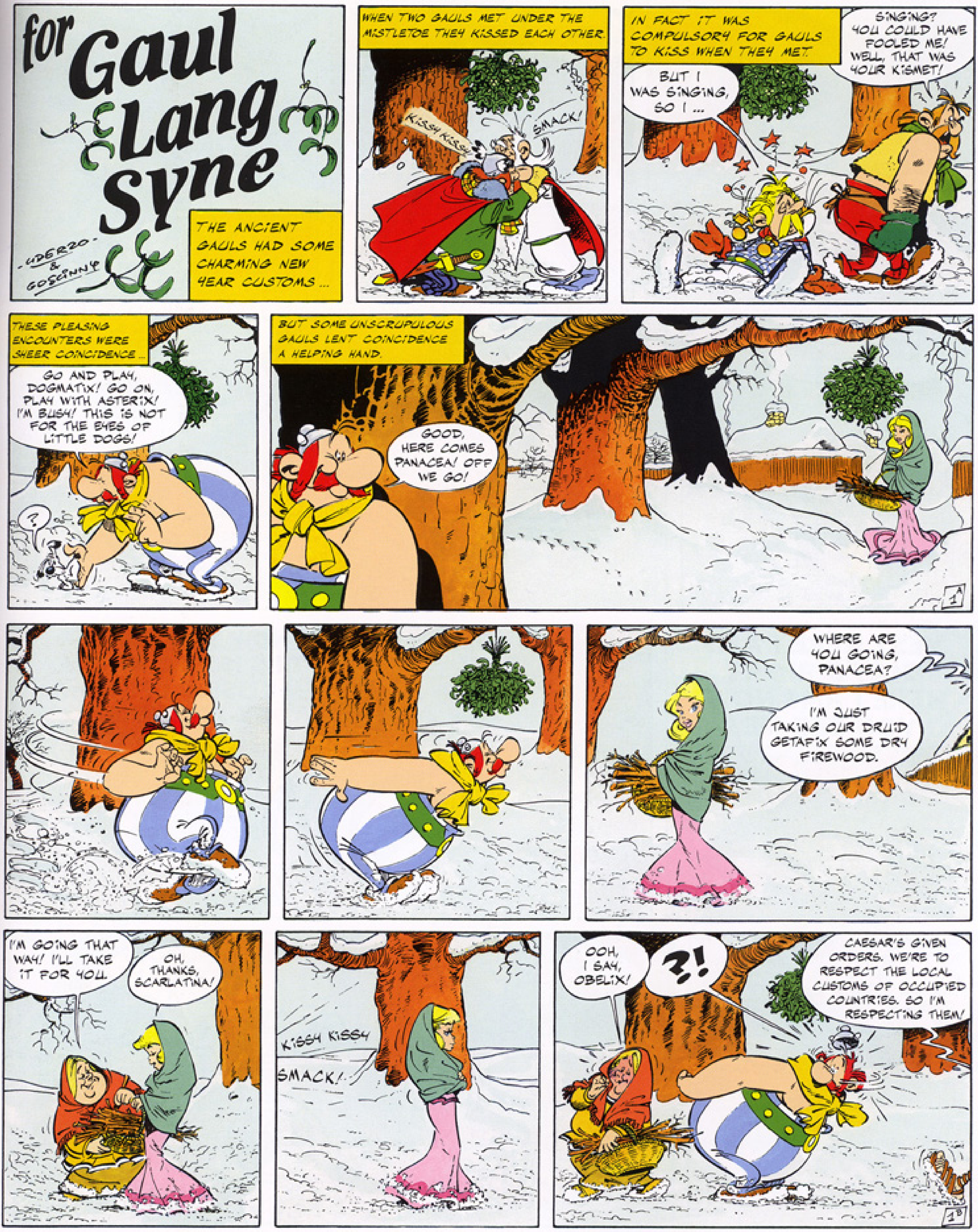
Written by René Goscinny - Illustrated by Albert Uderzo

The issue of "Pilote" published at the end of the year always had to be about New Year customs...

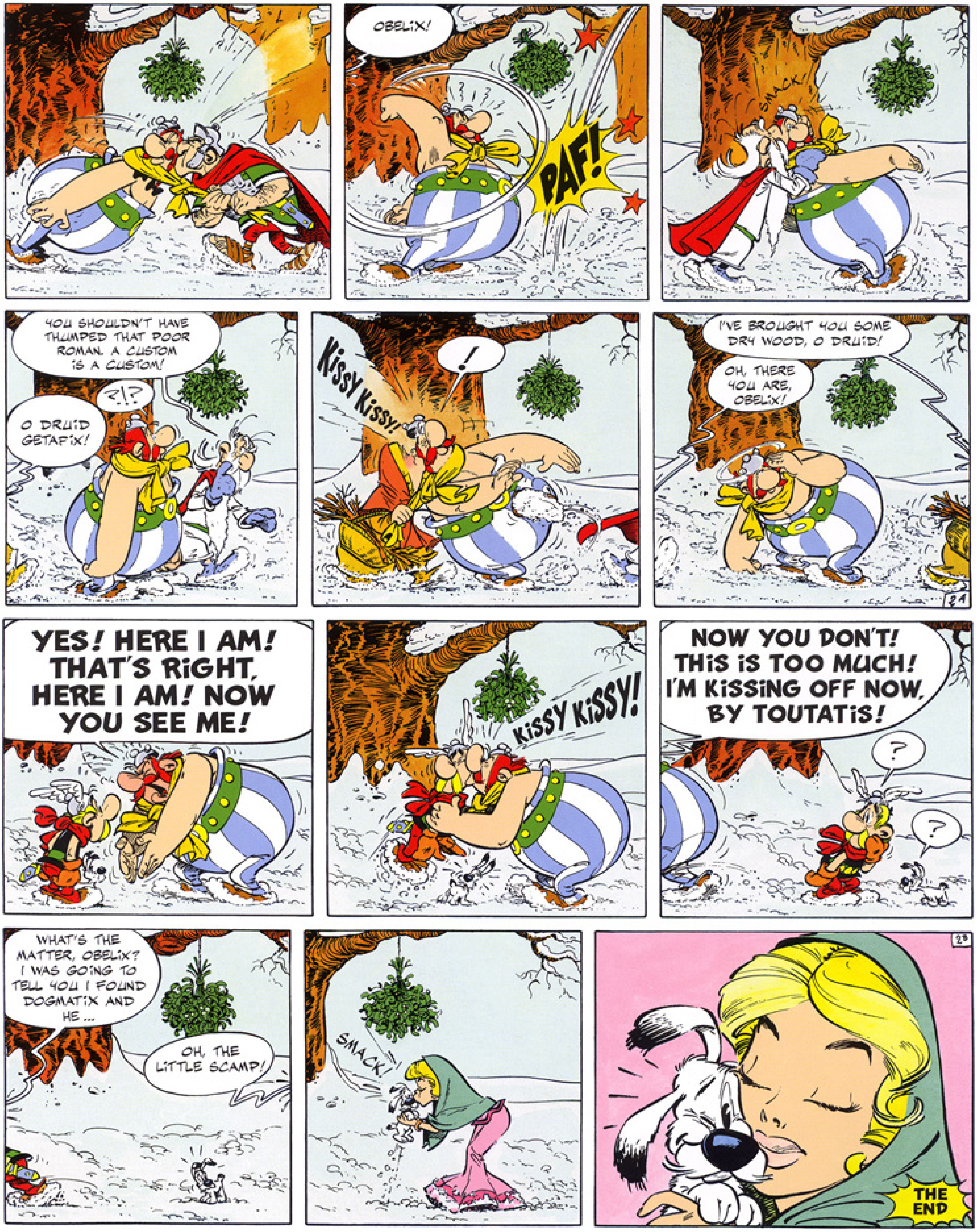
This time René thought it would be a good idea if the Gauls joined in. He suggested to Albert reinventing an old custom dating back to Druid traditions: kissing under the mistletoe. In "Asterix the Legionary" Obelix fell in love with the beautiful Panacea, so the authors enjoyed going back to the subject. This time Obelix actually dares to try snatching a kiss, a very unusual situation for him ... but a skilful move thwarts his intentions. In condensed form, this story expresses all René Goscinny's delicacy of feeling and sense of humour, and the tender, beautiful line of Albert Uderzo's drawing.



"Pilote", n° 424



for Gaul Lang Syne
-UDERZO- & GOSCINNY
THE ANCIENT GAULS HAD SOME CHARMING NEW YEAR CUSTOMS ...
WHEN TWO GAULS MET UNDER THE MISTLETOE THEY KISSED EACH OTHER.
KISSY KISSY
SMACK!
IN FACT IT WAS COMPULSORY FOR GAULS TO KISS WHEN THEY MET.
BUT I WAS SINGING, SO I ...
SINGING? YOU COULD HAVE FOOLED ME! WELL, THAT WAS YOUR KISMET!
THESE PLEASING ENCOUNTERS WERE SHEER COINCIDENCE ...
GO AND PLAY, DOGMATIX! GO ON, PLAY WITH ASTERIX! I'M BUSY! THIS IS NOT FOR THE EYES OF LITTLE DOGS!
?
BUT SOME UNSCRUPULOUS GAULS LENT COINCIDENCE A HELPING HAND.
GOOD, HERE COMES PANACEA! OFF WE GO!
1A
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, PANACEA?
I'M JUST TAKING OUR DRUID GETAFIX SOME DRY FIREWOOD.
I'M GOING THAT WAY! I'LL TAKE IT FOR YOU.
OH, THANKS, SCARLATINA!
KISSY KISSY
SMACK!
OOH, I SAY, OBELIX!
?!
CAESAR'S GIVEN ORDERS. WE'RE TO RESPECT THE LOCAL CUSTOMS OF OCCUPIED COUNTRIES. SO I'M RESPECTING THEM!
1B


OBELIX!
PAF!
SMACK!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE THUMPED THAT POOR ROMAN. A CUSTOM IS A CUSTOM!
?!?
O DRUID GETAFIX!
KISSY KISSY!
!
I'VE BROUGHT YOU SOME DRY WOOD, O DRUID!
OH, THERE YOU ARE, OBELIX!
YES! HERE I AM! THAT'S RIGHT, HERE I AM! NOW YOU SEE ME!
KISSY KISSY!
NOW YOU DON'T! THIS IS TOO MUCH! I'M KISSING OFF NOW, BY TOUTATIS!
?
?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, OBELIX? I WAS GOING TO TELL YOU I FOUND DOGMATIX AND HE ...
OH, THE LITTLE SCAMP!
SMACK!
THE END

Mini Midi Maxi

02 August 1971

Written by René Goscinny - Illustrated by Albert Uderzo

In view of the huge success of Asterix and his friends, the weekly magazine "Elle" asked the authors to provide a story on a women's subject for one of their summer issues.

Although it is true that the village of indomitable Gauls is rather a male society, the authors progressively introduced heroines into the story as regular characters, for instance Impedimenta the chief's wife, Mrs Geriatrix (the star of this two-page story), Panacea and Cleopatra.

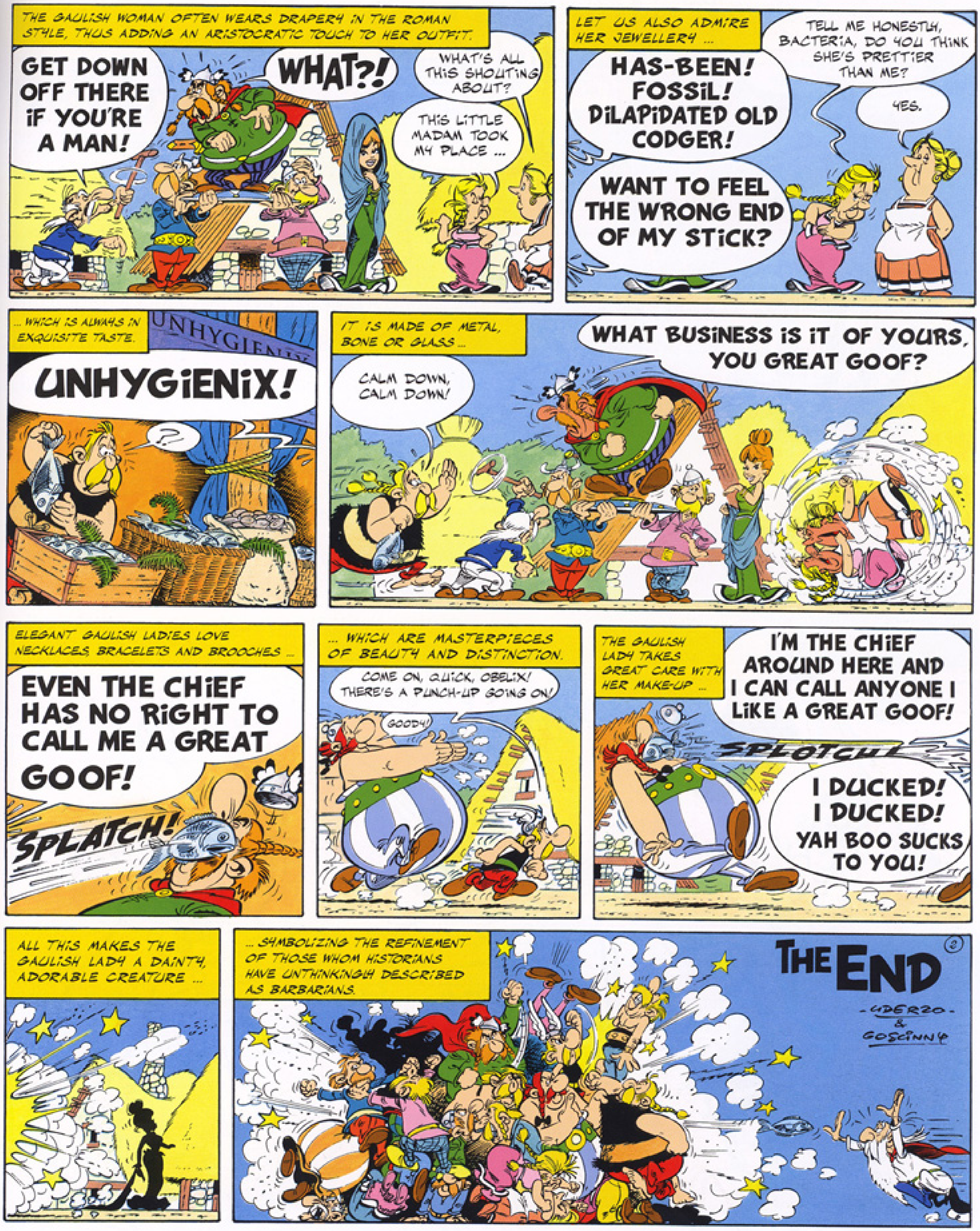
So it would be wrong to call the authors of the Asterix books anti-feminist! In fact women play a much more important part than in many other famous series! And if the humour sometimes gently mocks them, it certainly doesn't spare the men either. Look at the rather unflattering pictures of Chief Vitalstatistix, Unhygienix the fishmonger or Fulliautomatix the village blacksmith! Thank you!



"Elle" n° 1337



IT HAS OFTEN BEEN CLAIMED THAT THE ANCIENT GAULS WERE BARBARIANS. NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH. VERCINGETORIX'S PROUD WARRIORS UNDERSTOOD CIVILIZED REFINEMENT, AND THEIR LOVELY LADY FRIENDS DIDN'T BOTHER WITH ALL THAT LOUD-MOUTHED "VENI, VIDI, VICI!" STUFF. THEY WERE MORE INTERESTED IN THE QUESTION OF MINI, MIDI OR MAXI ...
FOR INSTANCE, TAKE THIS CHARMING GAULISH LADY ...
OR NO ... LET'S TAKE THIS ONE!
NOTICE THE NATURAL ELEGANCE OF HER FIGURE ...
... AND THE INFINITE CARE SHE HAS TAKEN WITH HER HAIRSTYLE.
I'M A CELEBRITY! GET ME BACK IN THERE!
AND NOW TO STUDY GAULISH FASHIONS ...
I MEAN, I AM THE CHIEF'S WIFE!
GAULISH WOMEN WORE A TUNIC ...
LOOK, IMPEDIMENTA, WOULD YOU MIND LEAVING US ALONE? CAN'T YOU SEE WE'RE BUSY?
WHAT WAS THAT?
SOMETIMES WITH A SECOND TUNIC WORN OVER IT ...
YOU LITTLE MADAM! WHO SAYS YOU CAN TALK TO ME LIKE THAT?
GERIATRIX, SWEETIE!
... IN AN ELEGANTLY MATCHING COLOUR.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, POPSY?
POPSY HERE IS A PROPER LITTLE MADAM, THAT'S WHAT!
THE CLOSE-FITTING ATTRACTIVELY LOW-CUT BODICE ...
GERIATRIX, HONEYBUN, ARE YOU GOING TO LET HER SAY THOSE THINGS?
WELL ... ER ... NO ... LISTEN, IMPEDIMENTA ...
VITALSTATISTIX!
... WAS CAUGHT IN AT THE WAIST BY A BELT WITH AN ELABORATELY DESIGNED BUCKLE.
DID YOU CALL ME, IMPEDIMENTA DEAR?
THAT OLD WRECK INSULTED ME!
WHO ARE YOU CALLING AN OLD WRECK?!

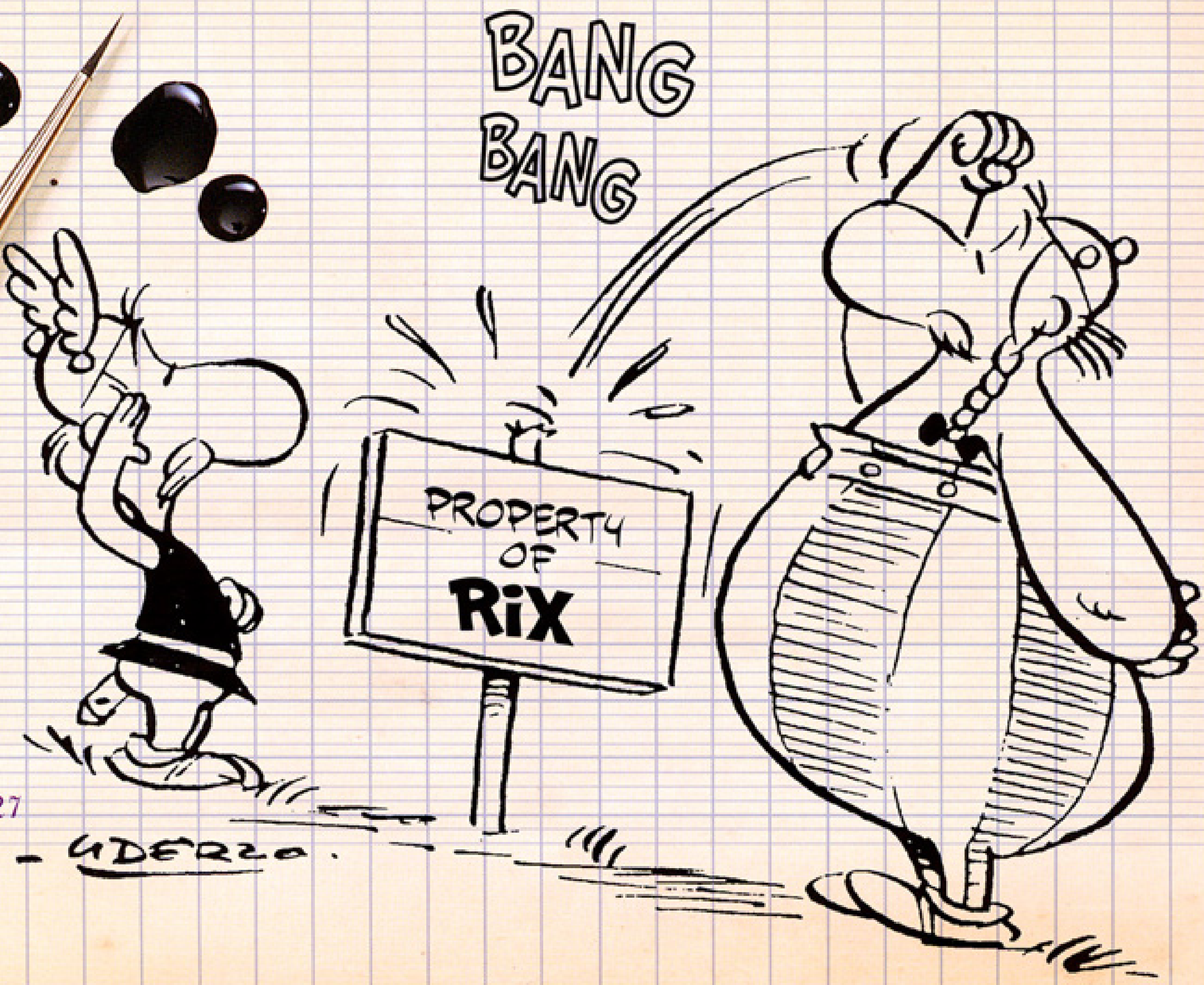

THE GAULISH WOMAN OFTEN WEARS DRAPERY IN THE ROMAN STYLE, THUS ADDING AN ARISTOCRATIC TOUCH TO HER OUTFIT.
GET DOWN OFF THERE IF YOU'RE A MAN!
WHAT?!
WHAT'S ALL THIS SHOUTING ABOUT?
THIS LITTLE MADAM TOOK MY PLACE ...
LET US ALSO ADMIRE HER JEWELLERY ...
HAS-BEEN! FOSSIL! DILAPIDATED OLD CODGER!
WANT TO FEEL THE WRONG END OF MY STICK?
TELL ME HONESTLY, BACTERIA, DO YOU THINK SHE'S PRETTIER THAN ME?
YES.
... WHICH IS ALWAYS IN EXQUISITE TASTE.
UNHYGIENIX
UNHYGIENIX!
?
IT IS MADE OF METAL, BONE OR GLASS ...
WHAT BUSINESS IS IT OF YOURS, YOU GREAT GOOF?
CALM DOWN, CALM DOWN!
ELEGANT GAULISH LADIES LOVE NECKLACES, BRACELETS AND BROOCHES ...
EVEN THE CHIEF HAS NO RIGHT TO CALL ME A GREAT GOOF!
SPLATCH!
... WHICH ARE MASTERPIECES OF BEAUTY AND DISTINCTION.
COME ON, QUICK, OBELIX! THERE'S A PUNCH-UP GOING ON!
GOODY!
THE GAULISH LADY TAKES GREAT CARE WITH HER MAKE-UP ...
I'M THE CHIEF AROUND HERE AND I CAN CALL ANYONE I LIKE A GREAT GOOF!
SPLOTCH!
I DUCKED! I DUCKED! YAH BOO SUCKS TO YOU!
ALL THIS MAKES THE GAULISH LADY A DAINTY, ADORABLE CREATURE ...
... SYMBOLIZING THE REFINEMENT OF THOSE WHOM HISTORIANS HAVE UNTHINKINGLY DESCRIBED AS BARBARIANS.
THE END
-UDERZO- & GOSCINNY

Asterix as you have never seen him before...

11 December 1969

René Goscinny - Albert Uderzo

These three pages of anthology pieces, which have kept all their force and originality, are very much in the spirit of "Pilote" magazine in the 1960s. The texts make their points tellingly and are very funny, while the drawing — or rather drawings — show a breathtaking mastery of many different graphic styles. How can an artist change his own style to caricature other strip cartoon illustrators so cleverly? There is a touch of the famous American "Mad" magazine here. The author has fun showing us what his imagination has come up with — for by agreement with René Goscinny, Albert both wrote and drew these three amazing pages by himself. A treat to be (re)discovered.

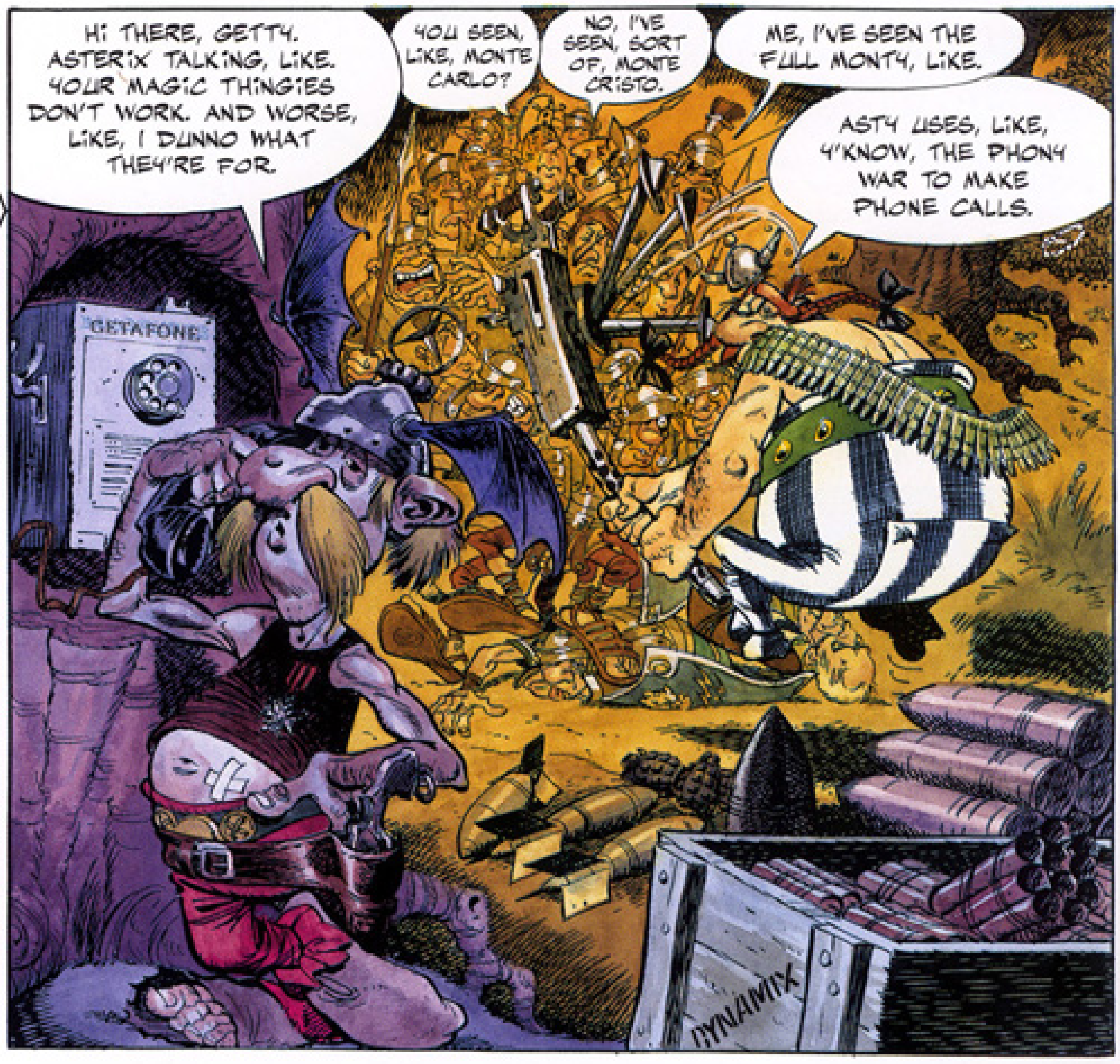


"Pilote", n° 527

SINCE THE BIRTH OF ASTERIX, MANY OF OUR READERS AND CERTAIN SPECIALIST STRIP CARTOON MAGAZINES, NOT TO MENTION THE CRITICS, HAVE SUGGESTED IDEAS TO US. WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THEM FOR THEIR KIND CONTRIBUTIONS, AND WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO ADAPT ASTERIX IN LINE WITH SOME OF THEIR SUGGESTIONS.

SUGGESTION 1

"WHY DON'T YOU, LIKE, YOU KNOW, HAVE THE DRUID INVENTING MODERN GADGETS? THE CHARACTERS DON'T TALK, LIKE, NATURAL. AND EVEN WORSE, THE DRAWING'S JUST FOR KIDS, LIKE MICKEY MOUSE STUFF. SIGNED, A PAL."

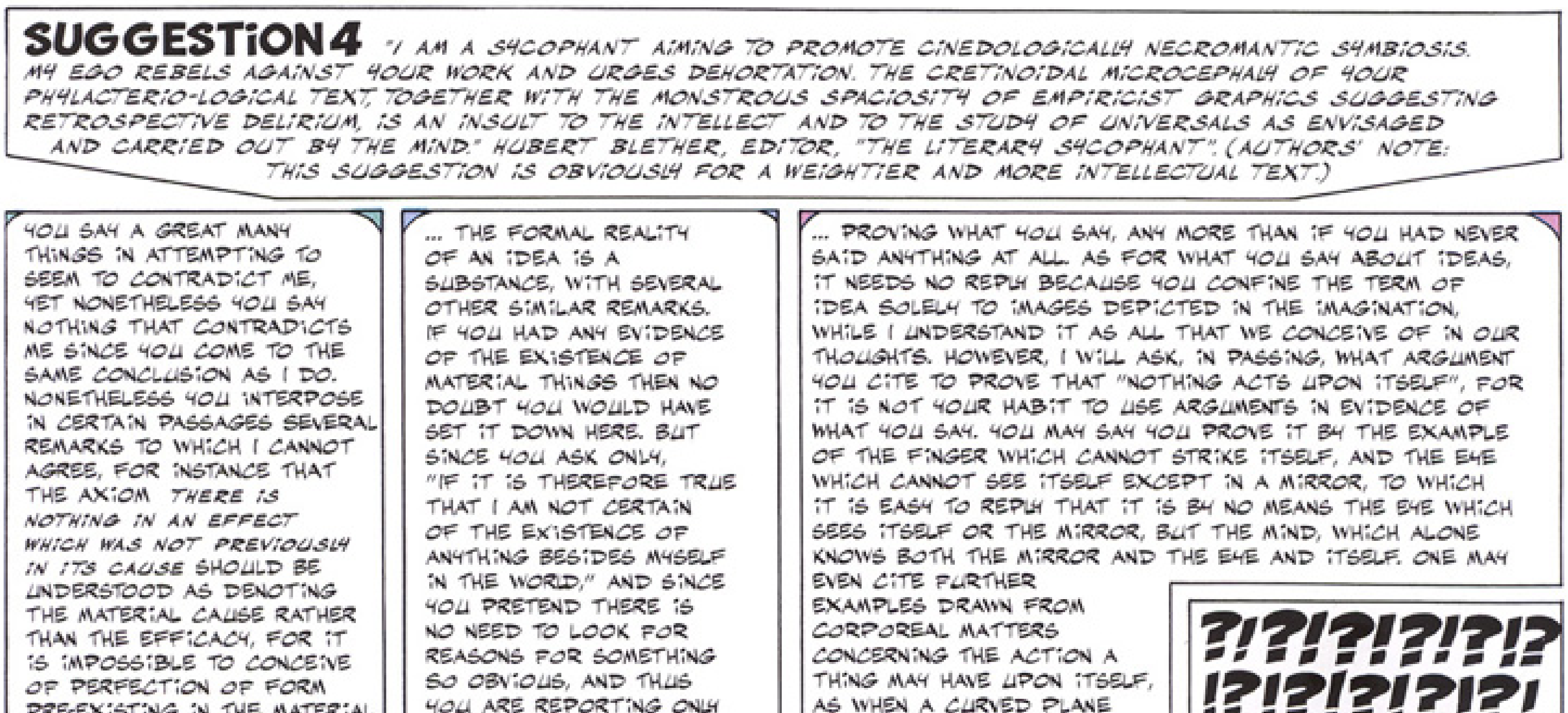


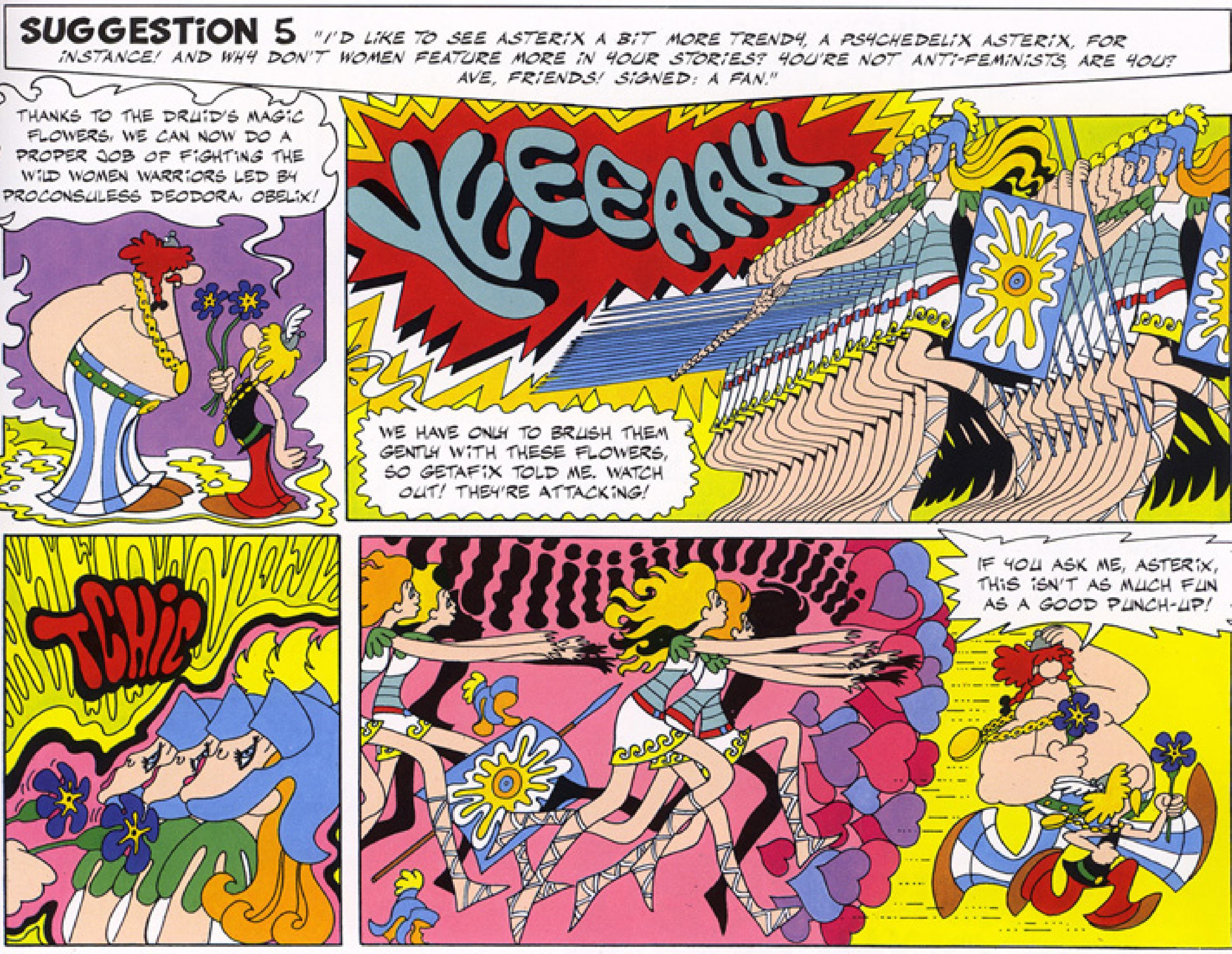
SUGGESTION 2

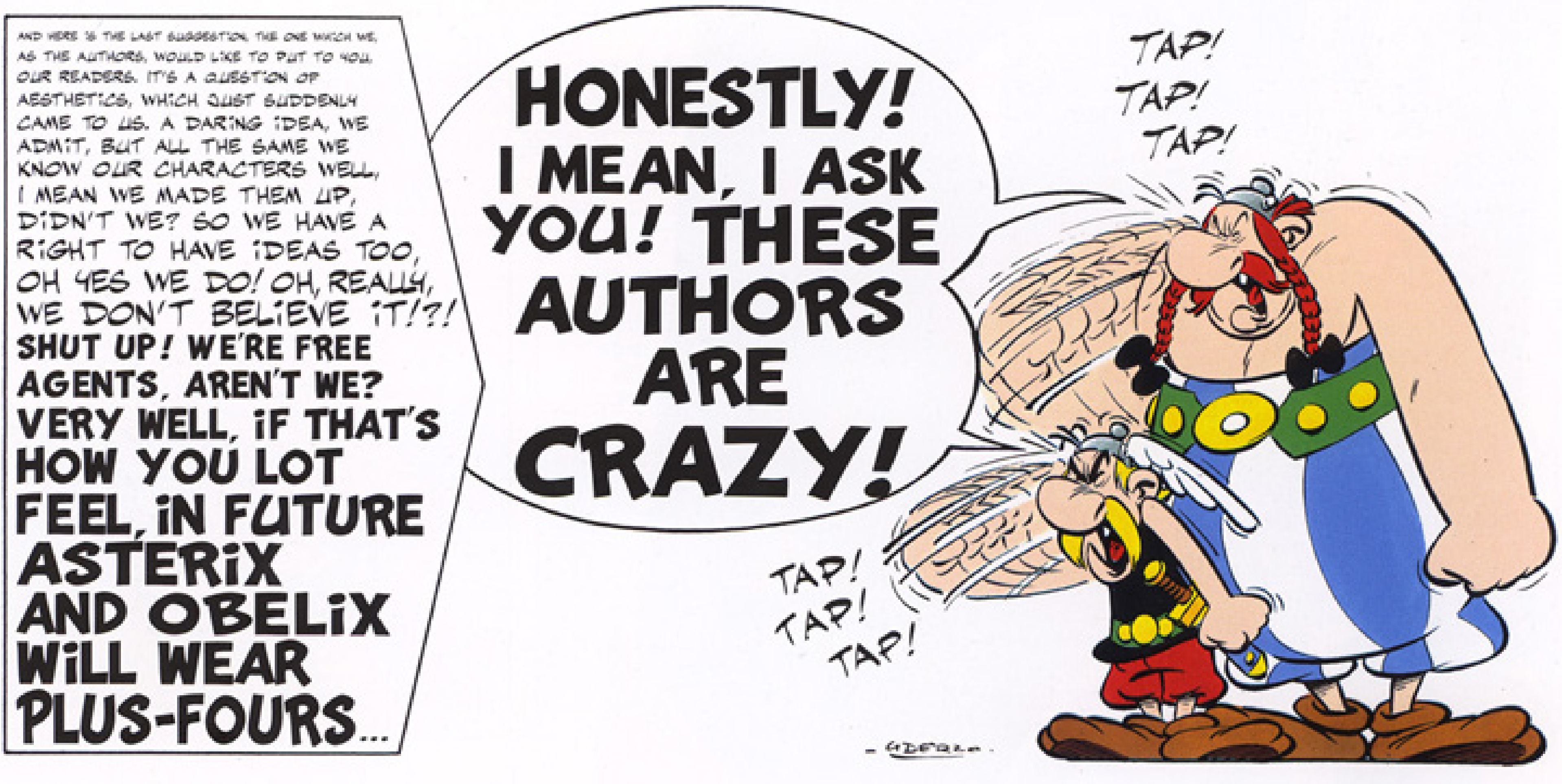
"STORIES TOO LONG' - STOP - 'TOO MUCH DIALOGUE' - STOP - 'NOT ENOUGH SIMPLICITY IN DRAWING' - STOP - 'WHY NOT TAKE ASTERIX TO AMERICA?' - STOP - SIGNED, PROFESSOR HEDDY, UNIVERSITY OF NANTES."




SUGGESTION 3
"THE LATEST ASTERIX BOOK WAS NOT TOO BAD, UNATTRACTIVE AND MUDDLED AS THE DRAWING WAS. ON THE OTHER HAND WE WERE DELIGHTED TO RE-READ THE WONDERFUL COLLECTION OF THE ADVENTURES OF THE HIGH-FLYING CRASH CORDON IN THE AMAZING WORLD OF DEEP SPACE."
FROM A REVIEW IN "PHOEBUS", THE JOURNAL OF ASCII (ASSOCIATION FOR STRIP CARTOON INFORMATION INTERCHANGE)
Jim Astéryx
THANKS TO THE DRUID'S MAGIC AMPHORA, OUR HEROES ARRIVE ON MARS BY WAY OF JUPITER, JUNO AND MERCURY.
AND, BY TOUTATIS! MARS IS OUR LAST CHANCE TO FIND THE VERY ESSENCE OF LIFE, OBELYX!
EVER SINCE THEY DISAPPEARED FROM EARTH, THE EXISTENCE OF OUR TRIBE HAS BEEN AT RISK!
AND WITH THEIR FIRST STEPS ON MARTIAN SOIL, THE MOMENT COMES...
ASTERYX! LOOK! THERE! WE'RE SAVED!
AT LAST! LOTS AND LOTS OF ROMANS! LOTS OF LOVELY ROMANS!


SUGGESTION 4 "I AM A SYCOPHANT AIMING TO PROMOTE CINEDOLOGICALLY NECROMANTIC SYMBIOSIS. MY EGO REBELS AGAINST YOUR WORK AND URGES DEHORTATION. THE CRETINOIDAL MICROCEPHALY OF YOUR PHYLACTERIO-LOGICAL TEXT, TOGETHER WITH THE MONSTROUS SPACIOSITY OF EMPIRICIST GRAPHICS SUGGESTING RETROSPECTIVE DELIRIUM, IS AN INSULT TO THE INTELLECT AND TO THE STUDY OF UNIVERSALS AS ENVISAGED AND CARRIED OUT BY THE MIND." HUBERT BLETHER, EDITOR, "THE LITERARY SYCOPHANT". (AUTHORS' NOTE: THIS SUGGESTION IS OBVIOUSLY FOR A WEIGHTIER AND MORE INTELLECTUAL TEXT.)
YOU SAY A GREAT MANY THINGS IN ATTEMPTING TO SEEM TO CONTRADICT ME, YET NONETHELESS YOU SAY NOTHING THAT CONTRADICTS ME SINCE YOU COME TO THE SAME CONCLUSION AS I DO. NONETHELESS YOU INTERPOSE IN CERTAIN PASSAGES SEVERAL REMARKS TO WHICH I CANNOT AGREE, FOR INSTANCE THAT THE AXIOM THERE IS NOTHING IN AN EFFECT WHICH WAS NOT PREVIOUSLY IN ITS CAUSE SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD AS DENOTING THE MATERIAL CAUSE RATHER THAN THE EFFICACY, FOR IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CONCEIVE OF PERFECTION OF FORM PRE-EXISTING IN THE MATERIAL CAUSE, ONLY IN THE SOLE EFFICACIOUS CAUSE, AND ALSO YOU SAY THAT ...
... THE FORMAL REALITY OF AN IDEA IS A SUBSTANCE, WITH SEVERAL OTHER SIMILAR REMARKS. IF YOU HAD ANY EVIDENCE OF THE EXISTENCE OF MATERIAL THINGS THEN NO DOUBT YOU WOULD HAVE SET IT DOWN HERE. BUT SINCE YOU ASK ONLY, "IF IT IS THEREFORE TRUE THAT I AM NOT CERTAIN OF ANYTHING BESIDES MYSELF IN THE WORLD," AND SINCE YOU PRETEND THERE IS NO NEED TO LOOK FOR REASONS FOR SOMETHING SO OBVIOUS, AND THUS YOU ARE REPORTING ONLY YOUR OLD PREJUDICES, YOU MAKE IT ALL THE MORE CLEAR THAT YOU HAVE NO REASONS ...
... PROVING WHAT YOU SAY, ANY MORE THAN IF YOU HAD NEVER SAID ANYTHING AT ALL. AS FOR WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT IDEAS, IT NEEDS NO REPLY BECAUSE YOU CONFINE THE TERM OF IDEA SOLELY TO IMAGES DEPICTED IN THE IMAGINATION, WHILE I UNDERSTAND IT AS ALL THAT WE CONCEIVE OF IN OUR THOUGHTS. HOWEVER, I WILL ASK, IN PASSING, WHAT ARGUMENT YOU CITE TO PROVE THAT "NOTHING ACTS UPON ITSELF", FOR IT IS NOT YOUR HABIT TO USE ARGUMENTS IN EVIDENCE OF WHAT YOU SAY. YOU MAY SAY YOU PROVE IT BY THE EXAMPLE OF THE FINGER WHICH CANNOT STRIKE ITSELF, AND THE EYE WHICH CANNOT SEE ITSELF EXCEPT IN A MIRROR, TO WHICH IT IS EASY TO REPLY THAT IT IS BY NO MEANS THE EYE WHICH SEES ITSELF OR THE MIRROR, BUT THE MIND, WHICH ALONE KNOWS BOTH THE MIRROR AND THE EYE AND ITSELF. ONE MAY EVEN CITE FURTHER EXAMPLES DRAWN FROM CORPOREAL MATTERS CONCERNING THE ACTION A THING MAY HAVE UPON ITSELF, AS WHEN A CURVED PLANE TURNS IN UPON ITSELF, FOR IS NOT THAT CONVERSION AN ACTION EXERCISED UPON ITSELF?*
* REPLIES TO OBJECTION V TO THE MEDITATIONS OF DESCARTES.
?!?!?!?!?!?
!?!?!?!?!?!
?!?!?!?!?
!?!?!?!?
ZZZ


SUGGESTION 5 "I'D LIKE TO SEE ASTERIX A BIT MORE TRENDY, A PSYCHEDELIX ASTERIX, FOR INSTANCE! AND WHY DON'T WOMEN FEATURE MORE IN YOUR STORIES? YOU'RE NOT ANTI-FEMINISTS, ARE YOU? AVE, FRIENDS! SIGNED: A FAN."
THANKS TO THE DRUID'S MAGIC FLOWERS, WE CAN NOW DO A PROPER JOB OF FIGHTING THE WILD WOMEN WARRIORS LED BY PROCONSULESS DEODORA, OBELIX!
YEEAAH
WE HAVE ONLY TO BRUSH THEM GENTLY WITH THESE FLOWERS, SO GETAFIX TOLD ME. WATCH OUT! THEY'RE ATTACKING!
TCHIC
IF YOU ASK ME, ASTERIX, THIS ISN'T AS MUCH FUN AS A GOOD PUNCH-UP!


AND HERE IS THE LAST SUGGESTION, THE ONE WHICH WE, AS THE AUTHORS, WOULD LIKE TO PUT TO YOU, OUR READERS. IT'S A QUESTION OF AESTHETICS, WHICH JUST SUDDENLY CAME TO US. A DARING IDEA, WE ADMIT, BUT ALL THE SAME WE KNOW OUR CHARACTERS WELL, I MEAN WE MADE THEM UP, DIDN'T WE? SO WE HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE IDEAS TOO, OH YES WE DO! OH, REALLY, WE DON'T BELIEVE IT!?! SHUT UP! WE'RE FREE AGENTS, AREN'T WE? VERY WELL, IF THAT'S HOW YOU LOT FEEL, IN FUTURE ASTERIX AND OBELIX WILL WEAR PLUS-FOURS...
HONESTLY! I MEAN, I ASK YOU! THESE AUTHORS ARE CRAZY!
TAP! TAP! TAP!
TAP! TAP! TAP!

The Lutetia Olympics
25 October 1986

Written and illustrated by Albert Uderzo

In the mid-1980s the mayor of Paris turned to Asterix for help in its Olympic bid. Jacques Chirac and his municipal team wanted Paris (the former city of Lutetia) to stage the AD 1992 Games.

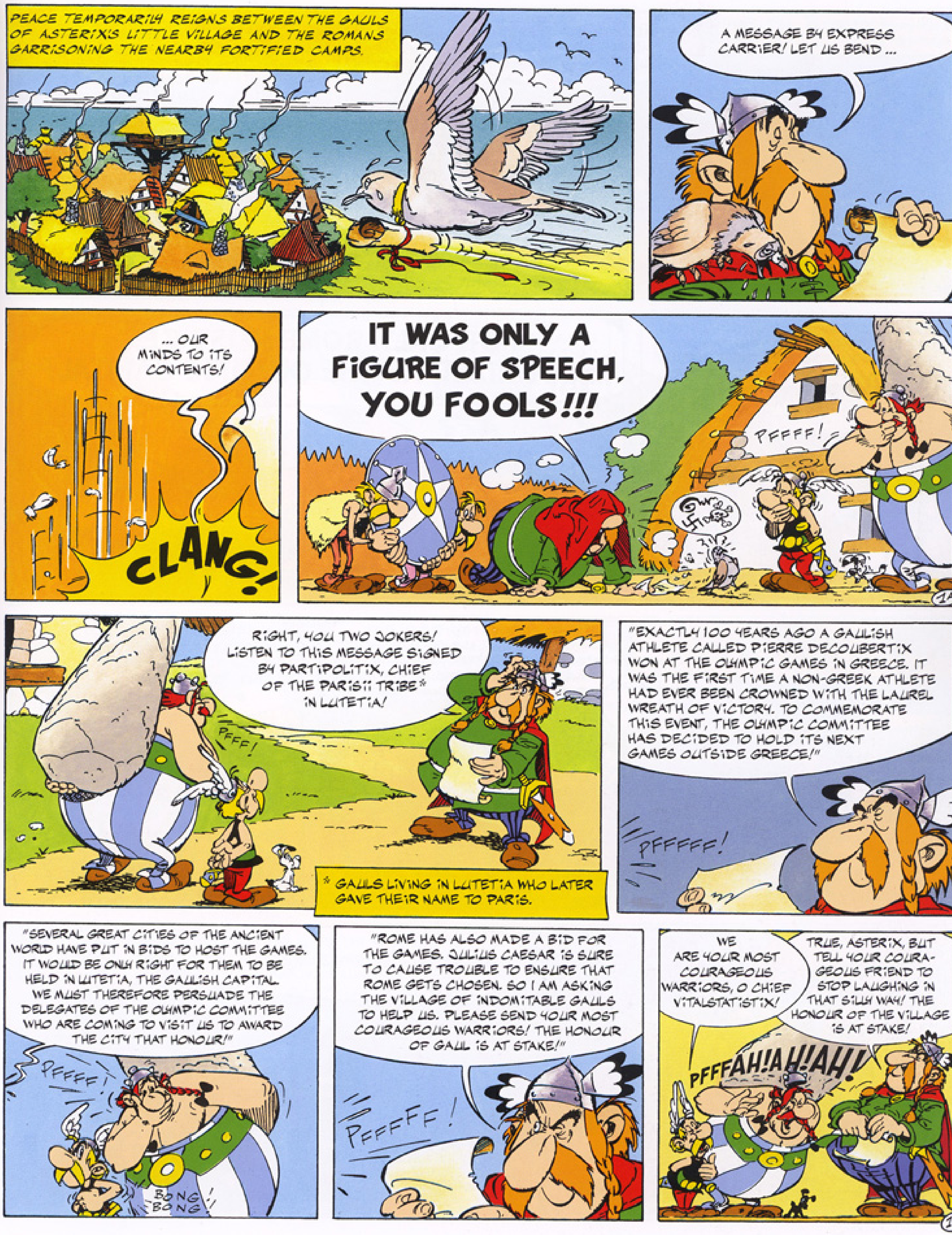
Albert Uderzo was asked to create a poster and a small four-page strip cartoon story to win support from the Parisii tribe of Lutetia. He liked the idea, and designed a poster which went up all over the capital in 1986. The story was published in "Jours de France", a popular magazine of the last century.

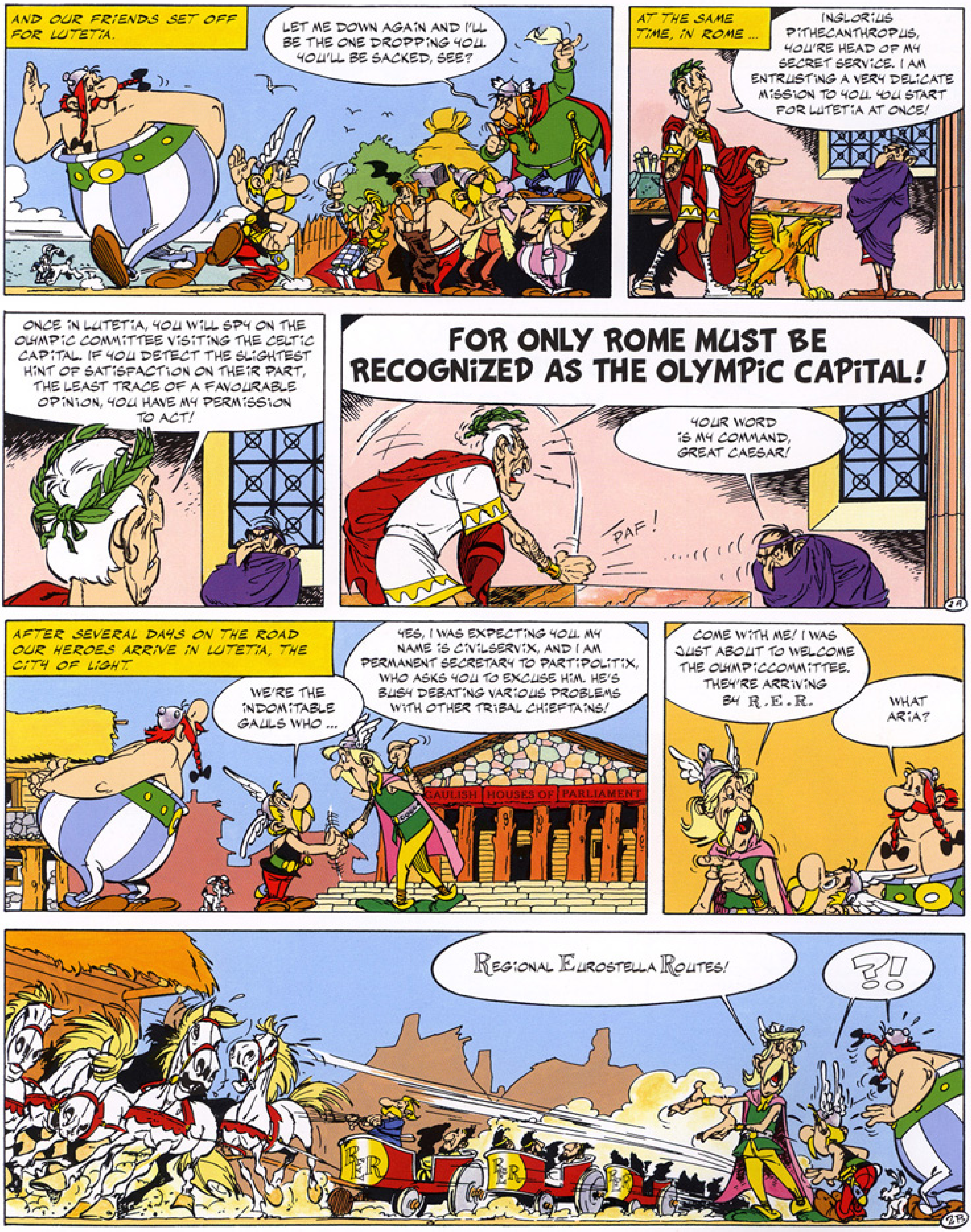
In the end the Olympic Committee did not award the Games to Paris, but obviously not everyone lost out, since just for the record, the original of the poster was never returned to the artist! But never mind: here you can see the Eiffel Tower turned into a huge, magnificent dovecote, and a really nasty villain is added to the rogues' gallery of the Asterix stories.

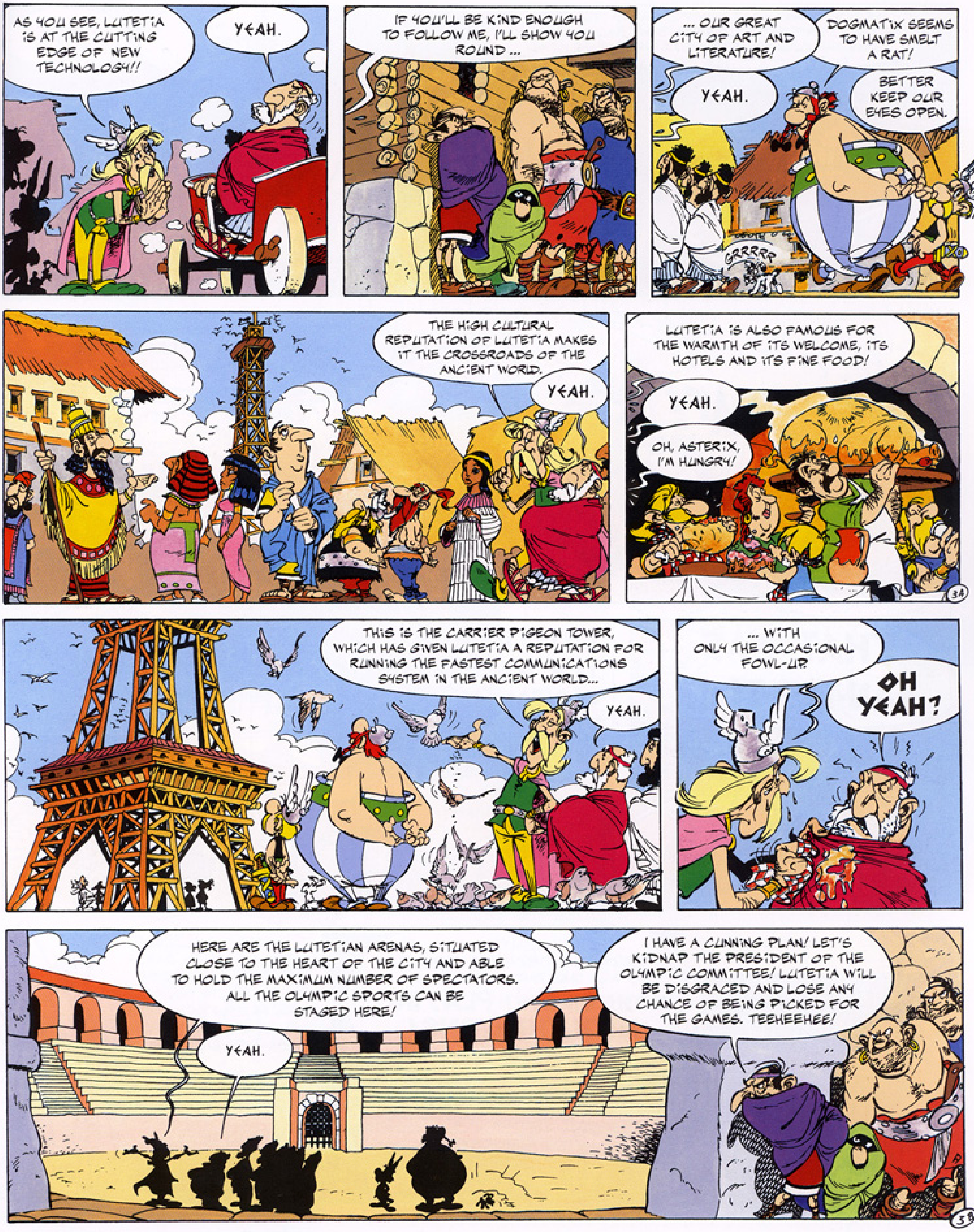


"Jours de France", n° 1660

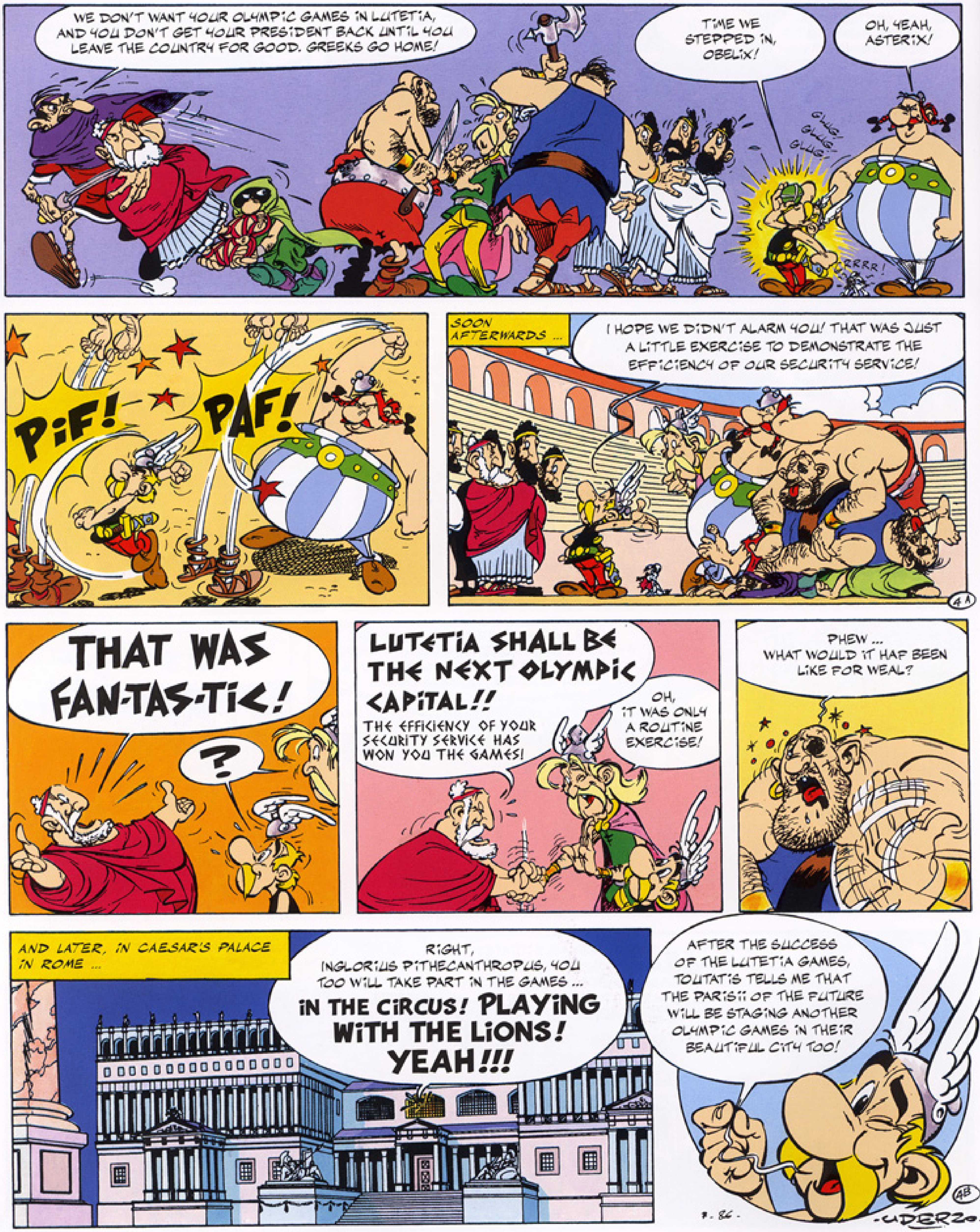
*1992


PEACE TEMPORARILY REIGNS BETWEEN THE GAULS OF ASTERIX'S LITTLE VILLAGE AND THE ROMANS GARRISONING THE NEARBY FORTIFIED CAMPS.
A MESSAGE BY EXPRESS CARRIER! LET US BEND ...
... OUR MINDS TO ITS CONTENTS!
CLANG!
IT WAS ONLY A FIGURE OF SPEECH, YOU FOOLS!!!
PFFFF!
RIGHT, YOU TWO JOKERS! LISTEN TO THIS MESSAGE SIGNED BY PARTIPOLITIX, CHIEF OF THE PARISII TRIBE* IN LUTETIA!
PFFF!
* GAULS LIVING IN LUTETIA WHO LATER GAVE THEIR NAME TO PARIS.
"EXACTLY 100 YEARS AGO A GAULISH ATHLETE CALLED PIERRE DECOUBERTIX WON AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES IN GREECE. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME A NON-GREEK ATHLETE HAD EVER BEEN CROWNED WITH THE LAUREL WREATH OF VICTORY. TO COMMEMORATE THIS EVENT, THE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED TO HOLD ITS NEXT GAMES OUTSIDE GREECE!"
PFFFFF!
"SEVERAL GREAT CITIES OF THE ANCIENT WORLD HAVE PUT IN BIDS TO HOST THE GAMES. IT WOULD BE ONLY RIGHT FOR THEM TO BE HELD IN LUTETIA, THE GAULISH CAPITAL. WE MUST THEREFORE PERSUADE THE DELEGATES OF THE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE WHO ARE COMING TO VISIT US TO AWARD THE CITY THAT HONOUR!"
PFFFF!
BONG! BONG!
"ROME HAS ALSO MADE A BID FOR THE GAMES. JULIUS CAESAR IS SURE TO CAUSE TROUBLE TO ENSURE THAT ROME GETS CHOSEN. SO I AM ASKING THE VILLAGE OF INDOMITABLE GAULS TO HELP US. PLEASE SEND YOUR MOST COURAGEOUS WARRIORS! THE HONOUR OF GAUL IS AT STAKE!"
PFFFFF!
WE ARE YOUR MOST COURAGEOUS WARRIORS, O CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX!
TRUE, ASTERIX, BUT TELL YOUR COURAGEOUS FRIEND TO STOP LAUGHING IN THAT SILLY WAY! THE HONOUR OF THE VILLAGE IS AT STAKE!
PFFFAH!AH!AH!


AND OUR FRIENDS SET OFF FOR LUTETIA.
LET ME DOWN AGAIN AND I'LL BE THE ONE DROPPING YOU. YOU'LL BE SACKED, SEE?
AT THE SAME TIME, IN ROME ...
INGLORIUS PITHECANTHROPUS, YOU'RE HEAD OF MY SECRET SERVICE. I AM ENTRUSTING A VERY DELICATE MISSION TO YOU. YOU START FOR LUTETIA AT ONCE!
ONCE IN LUTETIA, YOU WILL SPY ON THE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE VISITING THE CELTIC CAPITAL. IF YOU DETECT THE SLIGHTEST HINT OF SATISFACTION ON THEIR PART, THE LEAST TRACE OF A FAVOURABLE OPINION, YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION TO ACT!
FOR ONLY ROME MUST BE RECOGNIZED AS THE OLYMPIC CAPITAL!
PAF!
YOUR WORD IS MY COMMAND, GREAT CAESAR!
AFTER SEVERAL DAYS ON THE ROAD OUR HEROES ARRIVE IN LUTETIA, THE CITY OF LIGHT.
WE'RE THE INDOMITABLE GAULS WHO ...
YES, I WAS EXPECTING YOU. MY NAME IS CIVILSERVIX, AND I AM PERMANENT SECRETARY TO PARTIPOLITIX, WHO ASKS YOU TO EXCUSE HIM. HE'S BUSY DEBATING VARIOUS PROBLEMS WITH OTHER TRIBAL CHIEFTAINS!
GAULISH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
COME WITH ME! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO WELCOME THE OLYMPICCOMMITTEE. THEY'RE ARRIVING BY R.E.R.
WHAT ARIA?
REGIONAL EUROSTELLA ROUTES!
?!



AS YOU SEE, LUTETIA IS AT THE CUTTING EDGE OF NEW TECHNOLOGY!!
YEAH.
IF YOU'LL BE KIND ENOUGH TO FOLLOW ME, I'LL SHOW YOU ROUND ...
... OUR GREAT CITY OF ART AND LITERATURE!
YEAH.
DOGMATIX SEEMS TO HAVE SMELT A RAT!
BETTER KEEP OUR EYES OPEN.
GRRRRR
THE HIGH CULTURAL REPUTATION OF LUTETIA MAKES IT THE CROSSROADS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD.
YEAH.
LUTETIA IS ALSO FAMOUS FOR THE WARMTH OF ITS WELCOME, ITS HOTELS AND ITS FINE FOOD!
YEAH.
OH, ASTERIX, I'M HUNGRY!
3A
THIS IS THE CARRIER PIGEON TOWER, WHICH HAS GIVEN LUTETIA A REPUTATION FOR RUNNING THE FASTEST COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IN THE ANCIENT WORLD...
YEAH.
... WITH ONLY THE OCCASIONAL FOWL-UP.
OH YEAH?
HERE ARE THE LUTETIAN ARENAS, SITUATED CLOSE TO THE HEART OF THE CITY AND ABLE TO HOLD THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SPECTATORS. ALL THE OLYMPIC SPORTS CAN BE STAGED HERE!
YEAH.
I HAVE A CUNNING PLAN! LET'S KIDNAP THE PRESIDENT OF THE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE! LUTETIA WILL BE DISGRACED AND LOSE ANY CHANCE OF BEING PICKED FOR THE GAMES. TEEHEEHEE!
3B

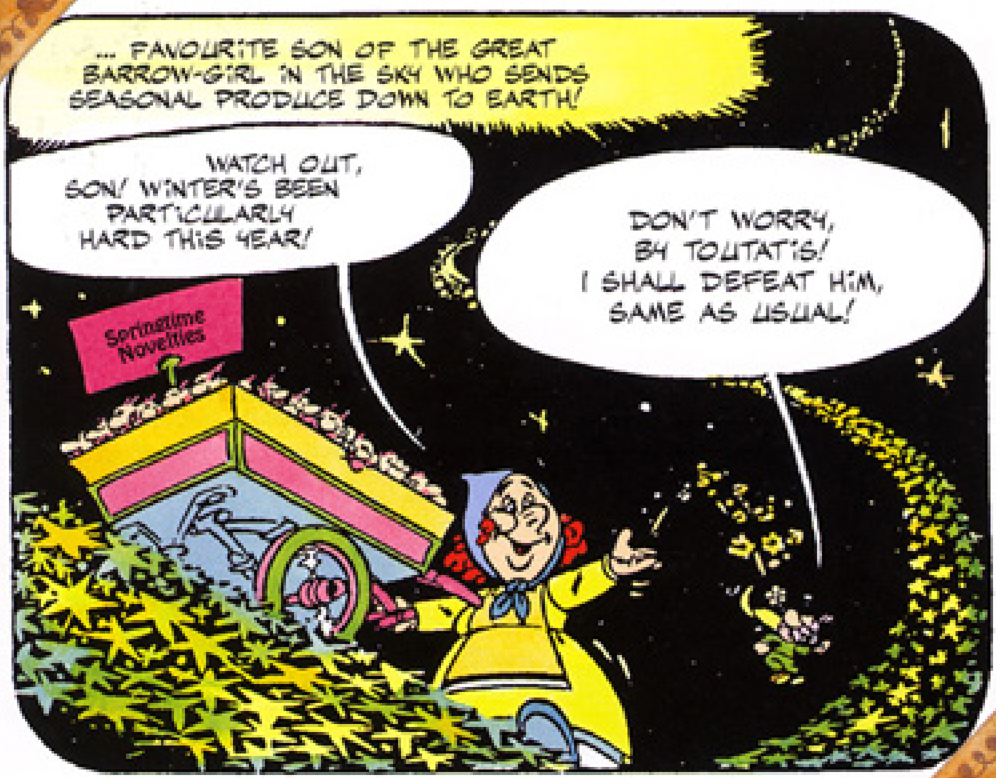


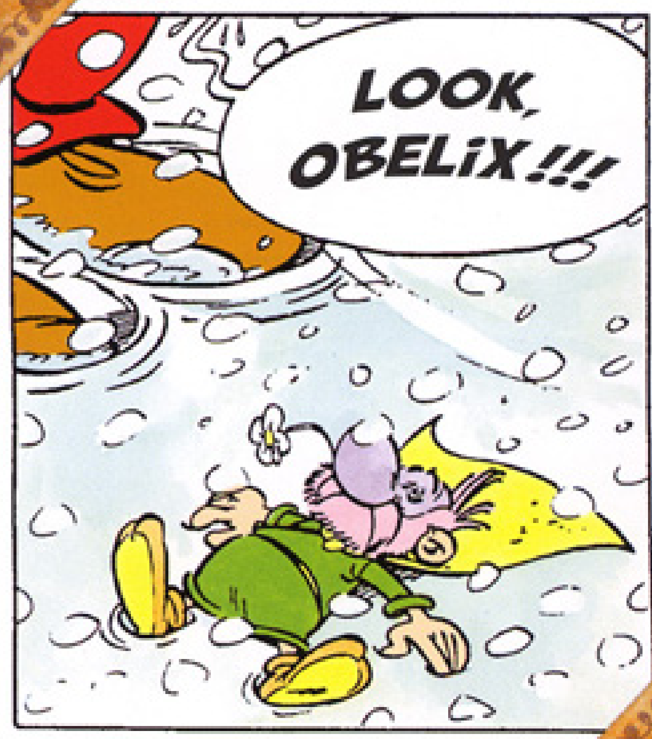
WE DON'T WANT YOUR OLYMPIC GAMES IN LUTETIA, AND YOU DON'T GET YOUR PRESIDENT BACK UNTIL YOU LEAVE THE COUNTRY FOR GOOD. GREEKS GO HOME!
TIME WE STEPPED IN, OBELIX!
OH, YEAH, ASTERIX!
GLUG! GLUG! GLUG!
PIF! PAF!
SOON AFTERWARDS ...
I HOPE WE DIDN'T ALARM YOU! THAT WAS JUST A LITTLE EXERCISE TO DEMONSTRATE THE EFFICIENCY OF OUR SECURITY SERVICE!
THAT WAS FAN-TAS-TIC!
?
LUTETIA SHALL BE THE NEXT OLYMPIC CAPITAL!! THE EFFICIENCY OF YOUR SECURITY SERVICE HAS WON YOU THE GAMES!
OH, IT WAS ONLY A ROUTINE EXERCISE!
PHEW ... WHAT WOULD IT HAF BEEN LIKE FOR WEAL?
AND LATER, IN CAESAR'S PALACE IN ROME ...
RIGHT, INGLORIUS PITHECANTHROPUS, YOU TOO WILL TAKE PART IN THE GAMES ... IN THE CIRCUS! PLAYING WITH THE LIONS! YEAH!!!
AFTER THE SUCCESS OF THE LUTETIA GAMES, TOUTATIS TELLS ME THAT THE PARISII OF THE FUTURE WILL BE STAGING ANOTHER OLYMPIC GAMES IN THEIR BEAUTIFUL CITY TOO!
-UDERZO-

Springtime in Gaul
17 March 1966

René Goscinny - Albert Uderzo

René Goscinny, overworked at the time, asked Albert if he had any ideas for a story about spring. For the second time Albert wrote a little story of his own and showed it to his colleague before he drew the pictures.



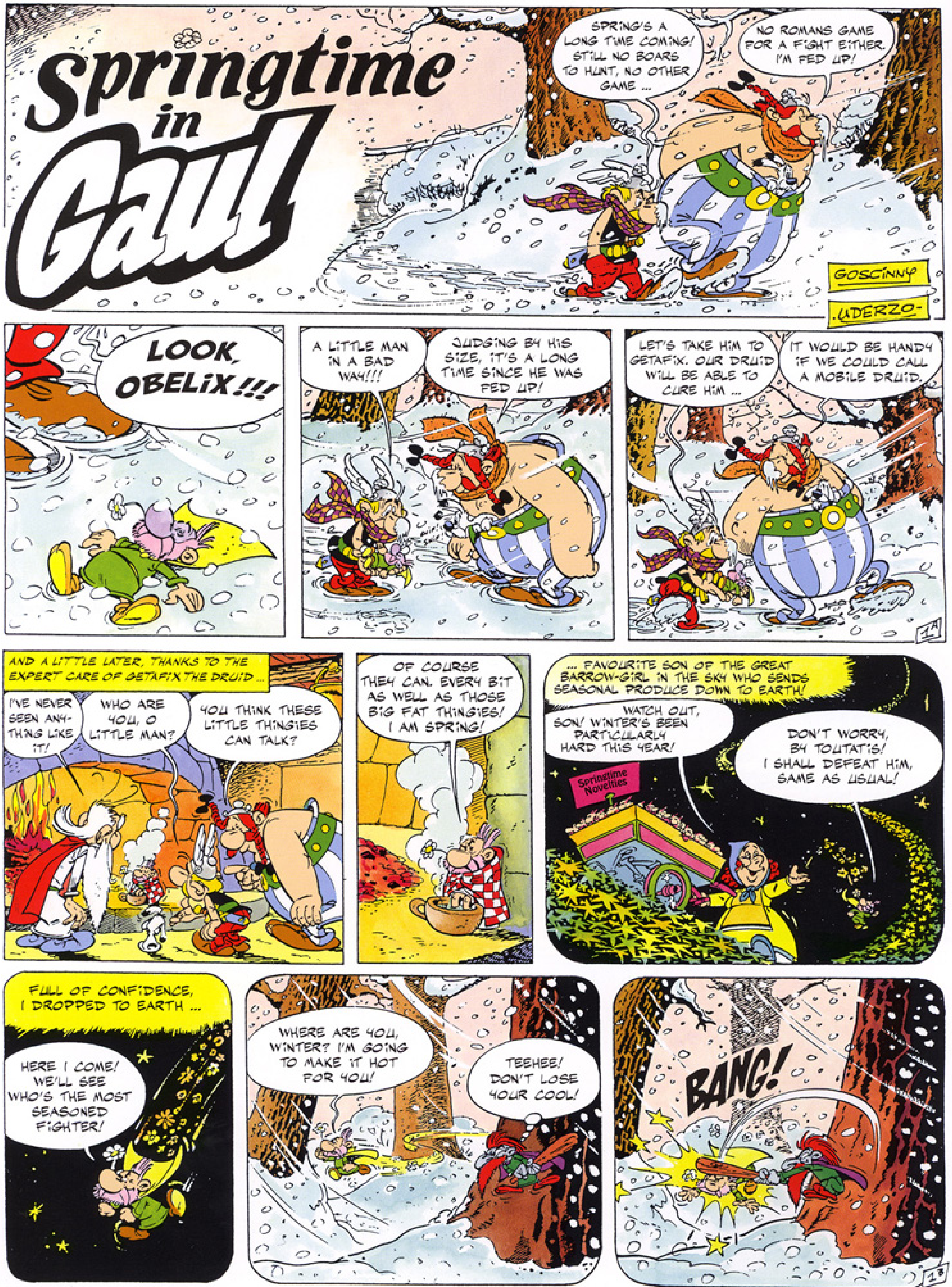


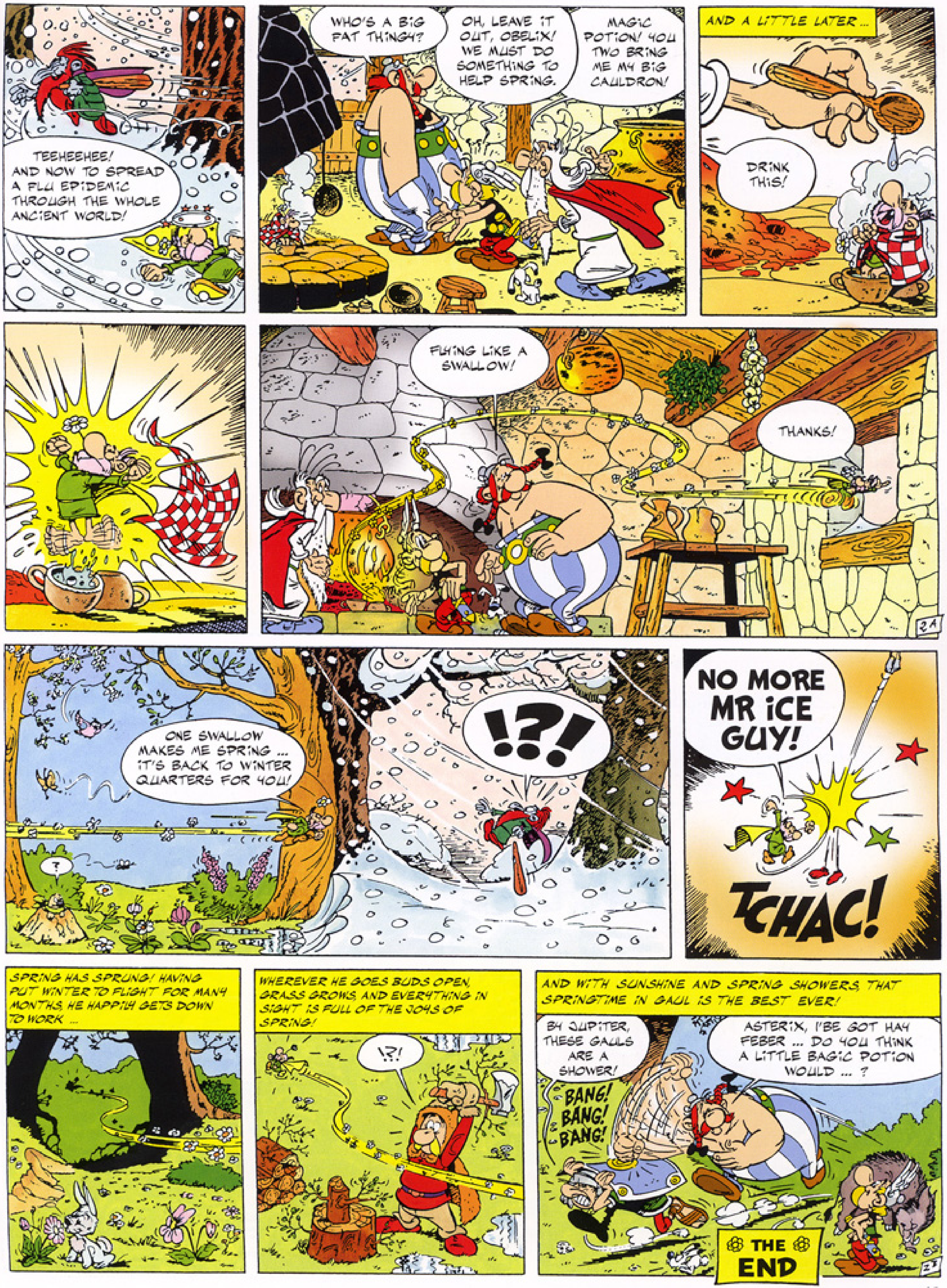


René was delighted with the magical seasons, so Albert created this two-page story on his own, as well as the cover picture of the magazine. Albert was inspired by his childhood, when he loved walking from the Faubourg Saint-Antoine to Aligre market near the Bastille in Paris, where the costermongers sold fruit and vegetables from their barrows.

René simply suggested to his friend the part played by Obelix in the final delightful gag.

"Pilote", n° 334


Springtime in Gaul
SPRING'S A LONG TIME COMING! STILL NO BOARS TO HUNT, NO OTHER GAME ...
NO ROMANS GAME FOR A FIGHT EITHER. I'M FED UP!
GOSCINNY
UDERZO
LOOK, OBELIX!!!
A LITTLE MAN IN A BAD WAY!!!
JUDGING BY HIS SIZE, IT'S A LONG TIME SINCE HE WAS FED UP!
LET'S TAKE HIM TO GETAFIX. OUR DRUID WILL BE ABLE TO CURE HIM ...
IT WOULD BE HANDY IF WE COULD CALL A MOBILE DRUID.
AND A LITTLE LATER, THANKS TO THE EXPERT CARE OF GETAFIX THE DRUID ...
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!
WHO ARE YOU, O LITTLE MAN?
YOU THINK THESE LITTLE THINGIES CAN TALK?
OF COURSE THEY CAN. EVERY BIT AS WELL AS THOSE BIG FAT THINGIES! I AM SPRING!
... FAVOURITE SON OF THE GREAT BARROW-GIRL IN THE SKY WHO SENDS SEASONAL PRODUCE DOWN TO EARTH!
WATCH OUT, SON! WINTER'S BEEN PARTICULARLY HARD THIS YEAR!
DON'T WORRY, BY TOUTATIS! I SHALL DEFEAT HIM, SAME AS USUAL!
Springtime Novelties
FULL OF CONFIDENCE, I DROPPED TO EARTH ...
HERE I COME! WE'LL SEE WHO'S THE MOST SEASONED FIGHTER!
WHERE ARE YOU, WINTER? I'M GOING TO MAKE IT HOT FOR YOU!
TEEHEE! DON'T LOSE YOUR COOL!
BANG!


TEEHEEHEE! AND NOW TO SPREAD A FLU EPIDEMIC THROUGH THE WHOLE ANCIENT WORLD!
WHO'S A BIG FAT THINGY?
OH, LEAVE IT OUT, OBELIX! WE MUST DO SOMETHING TO HELP SPRING.
MAGIC POTION! YOU TWO BRING ME MY BIG CAULDRON!
AND A LITTLE LATER ...
DRINK THIS!
FLYING LIKE A SWALLOW!
THANKS!
ONE SWALLOW MAKES ME SPRING ... IT'S BACK TO WINTER QUARTERS FOR YOU!
?
!?!
NO MORE MR ICE GUY!
TCHAC!
SPRING HAS SPRUNG! HAVING PUT WINTER TO FLIGHT FOR MANY MONTHS, HE HAPPILY GETS DOWN TO WORK ...
WHEREVER HE GOES BUDS OPEN, GRASS GROWS, AND EVERYTHING IN SIGHT IS FULL OF THE JOYS OF SPRING!
!?!
AND WITH SUNSHINE AND SPRING SHOWERS, THAT SPRINGTIME IN GAUL IS THE BEST EVER!
BY JUPITER, THESE GAULS ARE A SHOWER!
ASTERIX, I'BE GOT HAY FEBER ... DO YOU THINK A LITTLE BAGIC POTION WOULD ... ?
BANG! BANG! BANG!
THE END

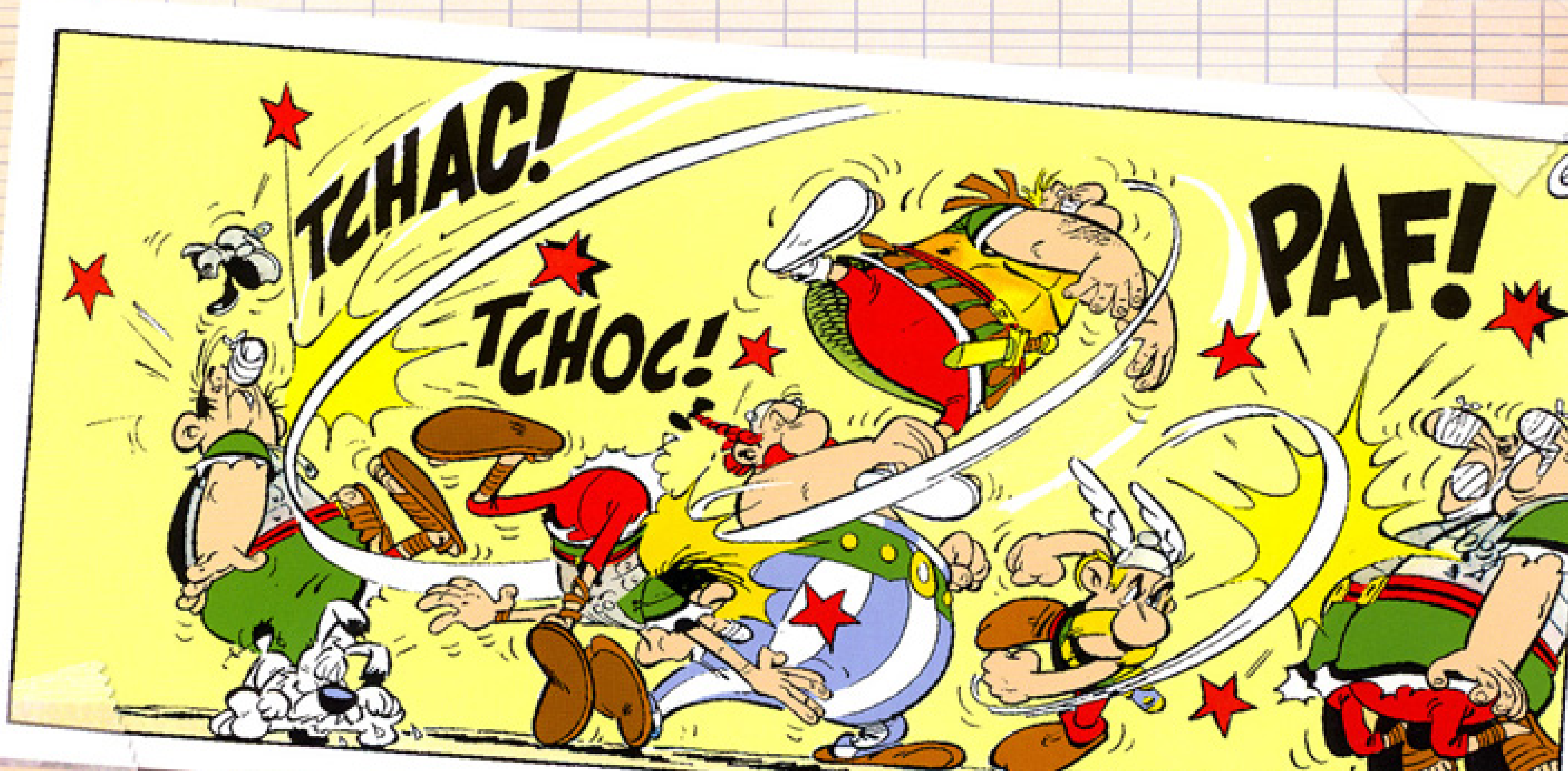
The mascot

13 June 1968

Written by René Goscinny - Illustrated by Albert Uderzo

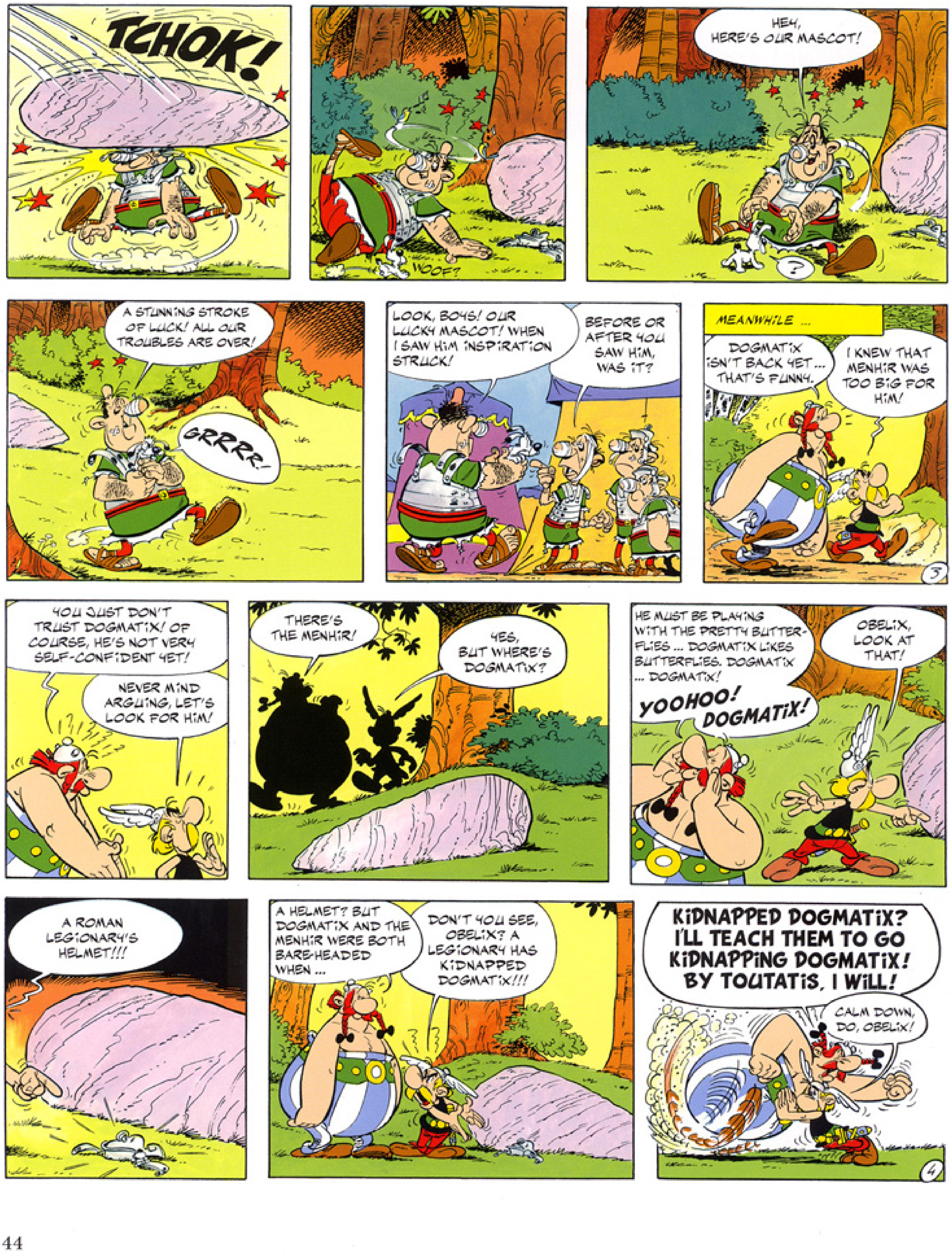
The story of "The mascot" was originally published in the smaller format of the "Super Pocket Pilote" series, and in a magazine commissioned by the town council of Romainville – one of the suburbs of Lutetia. With a name like that – "Roman-town" – it was not surprising that the council should invite Asterix and his friends to pay a visit. In this complete story, full of the familiar features of the Asterix adventures, Dogmatix is kidnapped. Obelix's little friend, who first appeared in "Asterix and the Banquet", soon became one of the favourite characters in the village. Here he is the victim of his own charms – after all, anyone would want a little dog who was so keen on preserving the environment twenty centuries ahead of his time!

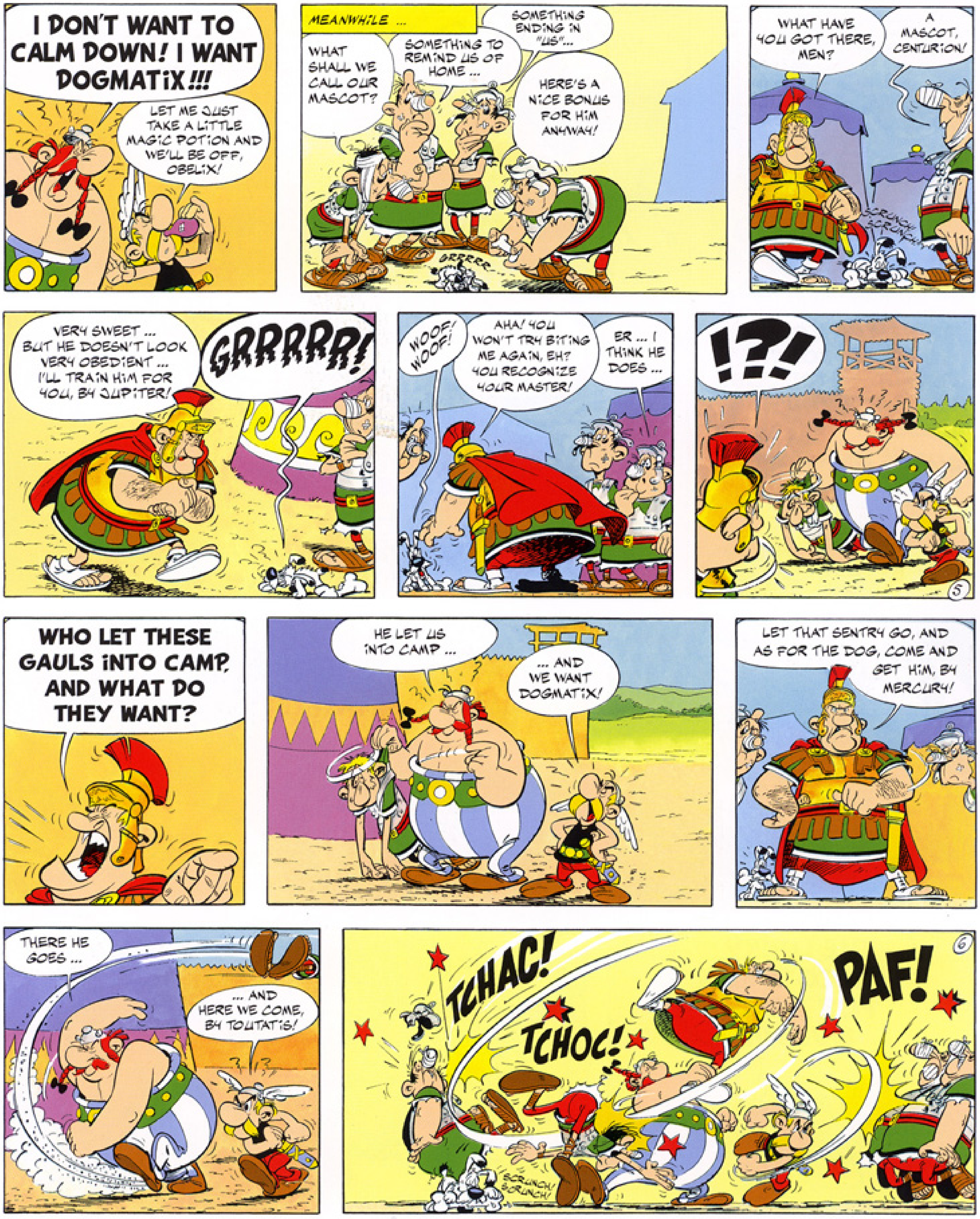
It was all thanks to Dogmatix that Obelix stopped uprooting trees and became ecologixally conscious!

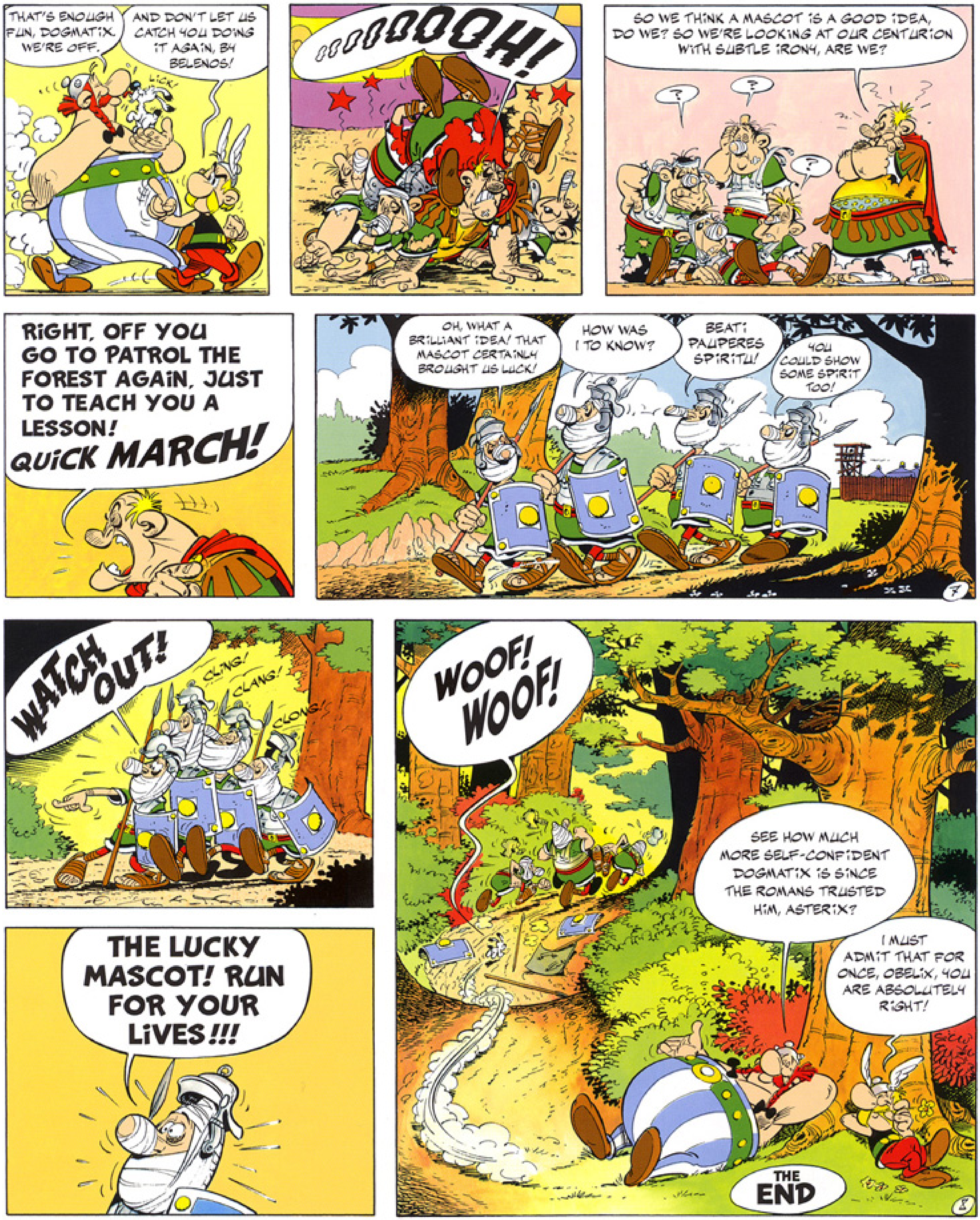


"Super Pocket Pilote", n°1


the mascot
TEXT BY GOSCINNY
DRAWN BY -UDERZO-
ABSOLUTELY, ASTERIX! I TELL YOU DOGMATIX IS A GREAT LITTLE DOG! THE TROUBLE IS YOU DON'T TRUST HIM. IT GIVES HIM AN INFERIORITY COMPLIX!*
NEVER MIND THAT. LOOK WHO'S HERE!
* THE ORIGIN OF THE MODERN COMPLEX.
WHO SHOULD BE HERE BUT A FINE UPSTANDING ROMAN PATROL?
TWO GAULS!
NOT THE TWO GAULS?!
DULCE ET DECORUM EST PRO PATRIA MORI.
SHUT UP, IGNORAMUS!
ON SUCH A FINE DAY IN THE ARMORICAN FOREST, WE WILL NOT DWELL ON THE FEW SECONDS OF VIOLENCE PRECEDING THE SCENE NOW SHOWN BELOW.
HONESTLY, THEY'RE GOING TOO FAR!
WE DIDN'T DO A THING TO THOSE CHAUVINIST GAULISH BOORS! ALL WE DID WAS INVADE THEM!
VICTRIX CAUSA DIIS PLACUIT, SED VICTA CATONI!
IF YOU'RE QUITE THROUGH WITH THE CLASSICAL QUOTATIONS ...
NUNC EST BIBENDUM.
ALL THAT FOREST TO PATROL AND WE HAVE TO RUN INTO THOSE SOCIAL MISFITS! WE'RE DOWN ON OUR LUCK!
OH, LEAVE IT OUT!
YOU KNOW WHY WE'RE DOWN ON OUR LUCK?
1
WHY?
CUR, QUID, QUOMODO?
YOU'RE BEGINNING TO GET ME DOWN, YOU ARE!
BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE A MASCOT!
A MASCOT?
OF COURSE! WE NEED A MASCOT! OUR MATES BACK HOME ON THE CAPITOL HAVE THE SACRED GEESE. THOSE GEESE TURNED OUT GOOD EGGS!
RES, NON VERBA.
YOU ASKED FOR IT!
HE'S GOT A RIGHT TO SPEAK LATIN GRAMMAR!
JUST WATCH HIM PARSING THROUGH!
PAF!
I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR A LITTLE ANIMAL TO BE OUR MASCOT!
I'M SURE TO FIND A LITTLE ANIMAL SOMEWHERE IN THIS FOREST.
AT THAT VERY MOMENT...
WATCH THIS! THEN YOU'LL SEE WHAT A GREAT LITTLE DOG MY DOGMATIX IS!
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT YOUR GREAT LITTLE DOGMATIX TO DO?
FETCH, DOGMATIX!
2


TCHOK!
WOOF?
HEY, HERE'S OUR MASCOT!
?
A STUNNING STROKE OF LUCK! ALL OUR TROUBLES ARE OVER!
GRRRR!
LOOK, BOYS! OUR LUCKY MASCOT! WHEN I SAW HIM INSPIRATION STRUCK!
BEFORE OR AFTER YOU SAW HIM, WAS IT?
MEANWHILE ...
DOGMATIX ISN'T BACK YET ... THAT'S FUNNY.
I KNEW THAT MENHIR WAS TOO BIG FOR HIM!
3
YOU JUST DON'T TRUST DOGMATIX! OF COURSE, HE'S NOT VERY SELF-CONFIDENT YET!
NEVER MIND ARGUING, LET'S LOOK FOR HIM!
THERE'S THE MENHIR!
YES, BUT WHERE'S DOGMATIX?
HE MUST BE PLAYING WITH THE PRETTY BUTTERFLIES ... DOGMATIX LIKES BUTTERFLIES. DOGMATIX ... DOGMATIX!
YOOHOO! DOGMATIX!
OBELIX, LOOK AT THAT!
A ROMAN LEGIONARY'S HELMET!!!
A HELMET? BUT DOGMATIX AND THE MENHIR WERE BOTH BARE-HEADED WHEN ...
DON'T YOU SEE, OBELIX? A LEGIONARY HAS KIDNAPPED DOGMATIX!!!
KIDNAPPED DOGMATIX? I'LL TEACH THEM TO GO KIDNAPPING DOGMATIX! BY TOUTATIS, I WILL!
CALM DOWN, DO, OBELIX!
4


I DON'T WANT TO CALM DOWN! I WANT DOGMATIX!!!
LET ME JUST TAKE A LITTLE MAGIC POTION AND WE'LL BE OFF, OBELIX!
MEANWHILE ...
WHAT SHALL WE CALL OUR MASCOT?
SOMETHING TO REMIND US OF HOME ...
SOMETHING ENDING IN "US"...
HERE'S A NICE BONUS FOR HIM ANYWAY!
GRRRRR
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT THERE, MEN?
A MASCOT, CENTURION!
SCRUNCH! SCRUNCH!
VERY SWEET ... BUT HE DOESN'T LOOK VERY OBEDIENT ... I'LL TRAIN HIM FOR YOU, BY JUPITER!
GRRRRR!
WOOF! WOOF!
AHA! YOU WON'T TRY BITING ME AGAIN, EH? YOU RECOGNIZE YOUR MASTER!
ER ... I THINK HE DOES ...
!?!
WHO LET THESE GAULS INTO CAMP, AND WHAT DO THEY WANT?
HE LET US INTO CAMP ...
... AND WE WANT DOGMATIX!
LET THAT SENTRY GO, AND AS FOR THE DOG, COME AND GET HIM, BY MERCURY!
THERE HE GOES ...
... AND HERE WE COME, BY TOUTATIS!
TCHAC!
TCHOC!
PAF!
SCRUNCH! SCRUNCH!



THAT'S ENOUGH FUN, DOGMATIX. WE'RE OFF.
AND DON'T LET US CATCH YOU DOING IT AGAIN, BY BELENOS!
LICK!
OOOOOOOOOH!
SO WE THINK A MASCOT IS A GOOD IDEA, DO WE? SO WE'RE LOOKING AT OUR CENTURION WITH SUBTLE IRONY, ARE WE?
?
?
?
RIGHT, OFF YOU GO TO PATROL THE FOREST AGAIN, JUST TO TEACH YOU A LESSON! QUICK MARCH!
OH, WHAT A BRILLIANT IDEA! THAT MASCOT CERTAINLY BROUGHT US LUCK!
HOW WAS I TO KNOW?
BEATI PAUPERES SPIRITU!
YOU COULD SHOW SOME SPIRIT TOO!
WATCH OUT!
CLING!
CLANG!
CLONG!
THE LUCKY MASCOT! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!!!
WOOF! WOOF!
SEE HOW MUCH MORE SELF-CONFIDENT DOGMATIX IS SINCE THE ROMANS TRUSTED HIM, ASTERIX?
I MUST ADMIT THAT FOR ONCE, OBELIX, YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT!
THE END

Latinomania
March 1973

Written by René Goscinny - Illustrated by Albert Uderzo

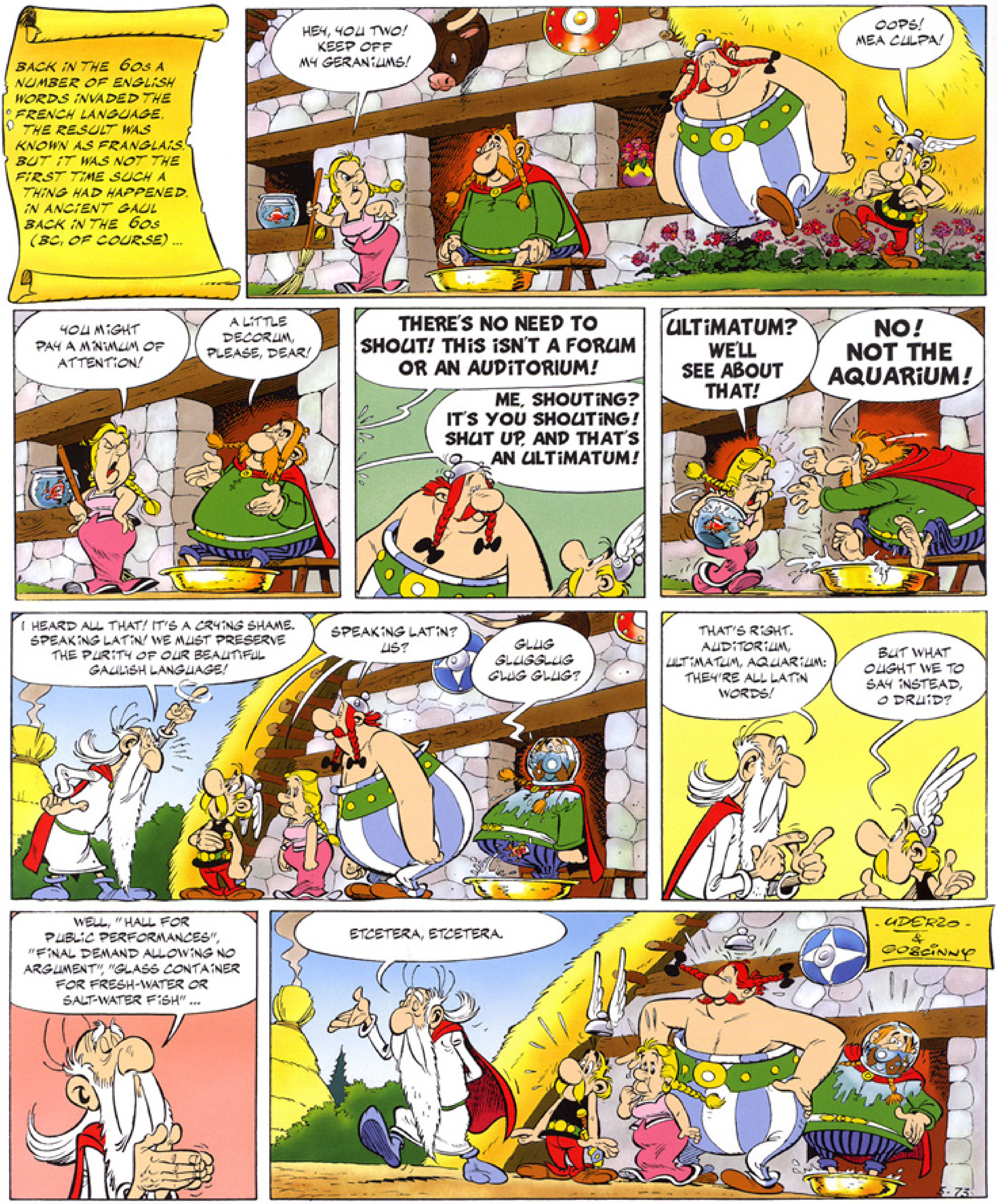


Thirty years ago, amused by the campaign against the use of English words in French — a phenomenon known as "franglais" — René Goscinny decided to use the Gauls to poke fun at it. He replied indirectly and humorously to the famous author Maurice Druon, one of the keenest to defend the purity of French, by imagining a similar fashion for "Latinisms" in occupied Gaul, and wrote this story, drawn by Albert Uderzo. It will certainly teach you more Latin than the other stories in this collection, by Toutatis!

This story, entitled "Latinomania" or "Et cetera", has been completely re-inked and re-coloured, like most of the stories here that date from the 1960s. Below is the cover of the first edition of the book you are now reading, published in France in 1993. Four hundred thousand copies were sold within weeks. However, it has never before been published in English, so all fourteen stories are new to readers of Asterix on the other side of the Channel.



Just for the record, on 10 August 1993, the day the first edition (in a giftbox with the videos of the first Asterix films) was released, the French publishers' switchboards crashed. The success of the book, which sold far more copies than the most optimistic had expected, persuaded us to promise a new, improved and longer edition to the readers and booksellers who have been waiting eagerly for it. Would we ever give in to blackmail? By Toutatis, no! But here at last is the book!


BACK IN THE 60s A NUMBER OF ENGLISH WORDS INVADED THE FRENCH LANGUAGE. THE RESULT WAS KNOWN AS FRANGLAIS. BUT IT WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME SUCH A THING HAD HAPPENED. IN ANCIENT GAUL BACK IN THE 60s (BC, OF COURSE) ...
HEY, YOU TWO! KEEP OFF MY GERANIUMS!
OOPS! MEA CULPA!
YOU MIGHT PAY A MINIMUM OF ATTENTION!
A LITTLE DECORUM, PLEASE, DEAR!
THERE'S NO NEED TO SHOUT! THIS ISN'T A FORUM OR AN AUDITORIUM!
ME, SHOUTING? IT'S YOU SHOUTING! SHUT UP, AND THAT'S AN ULTIMATUM!
ULTIMATUM? WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!
NO! NOT THE AQUARIUM!
I HEARD ALL THAT! IT'S A CRYING SHAME. SPEAKING LATIN! WE MUST PRESERVE THE PURITY OF OUR BEAUTIFUL GAULISH LANGUAGE!
SPEAKING LATIN? US?
GLUG GLUGGLUG GLUG GLUG?
THAT'S RIGHT. AUDITORIUM, ULTIMATUM, AQUARIUM: THEY'RE ALL LATIN WORDS!
BUT WHAT OUGHT WE TO SAY INSTEAD, O DRUID?
WELL, "HALL FOR PUBLIC PERFORMANCES", "FINAL DEMAND ALLOWING NO ARGUMENT", "GLASS CONTAINER FOR FRESH-WATER OR SALT-WATER FISH" ...
ETCETERA, ETCETERA.
UDERZO & GOSCINNY
5-73

The authors take the stage

1962 - 1963

Written by René Goscinny - Illustrated by Albert Uderzo

Although strip cartoons tend to be written and drawn to a standard pattern today, in the 1960s and 1970s there was more of a libertarian spirit in them, and they often ignored graphic conventions and logical time schemes. Showing the authors in the company of their own creations was almost obligatory — readers expected and wanted it, and indeed that was one of the reasons for the magical sympathy between readers and authors.

It was in this spirit that René and Albert, like many other writers and illustrators of strip cartoons, invented works of pure fantasy in which they crossed the borders of space and time, and finally revealed the true story of the creation of Asterix.

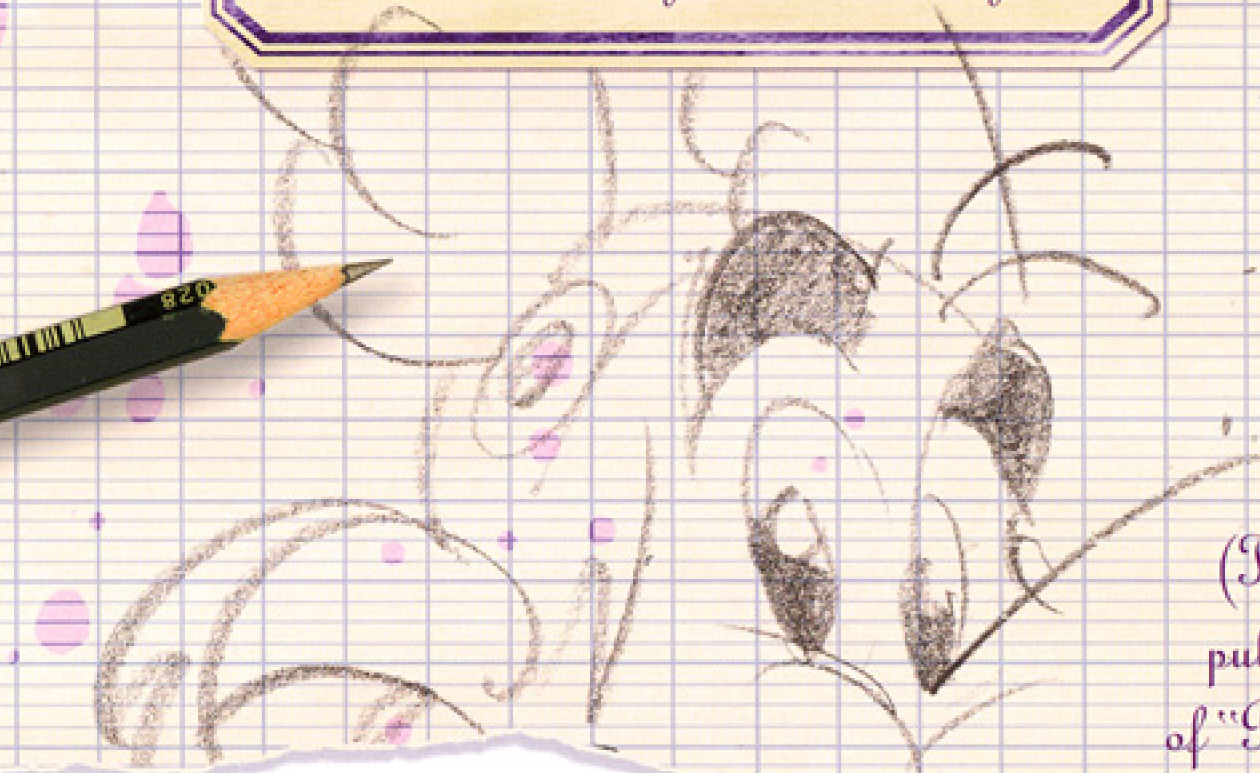


* The power to make people laugh: from an epigram by Caesar on Terence, the Latin poet.

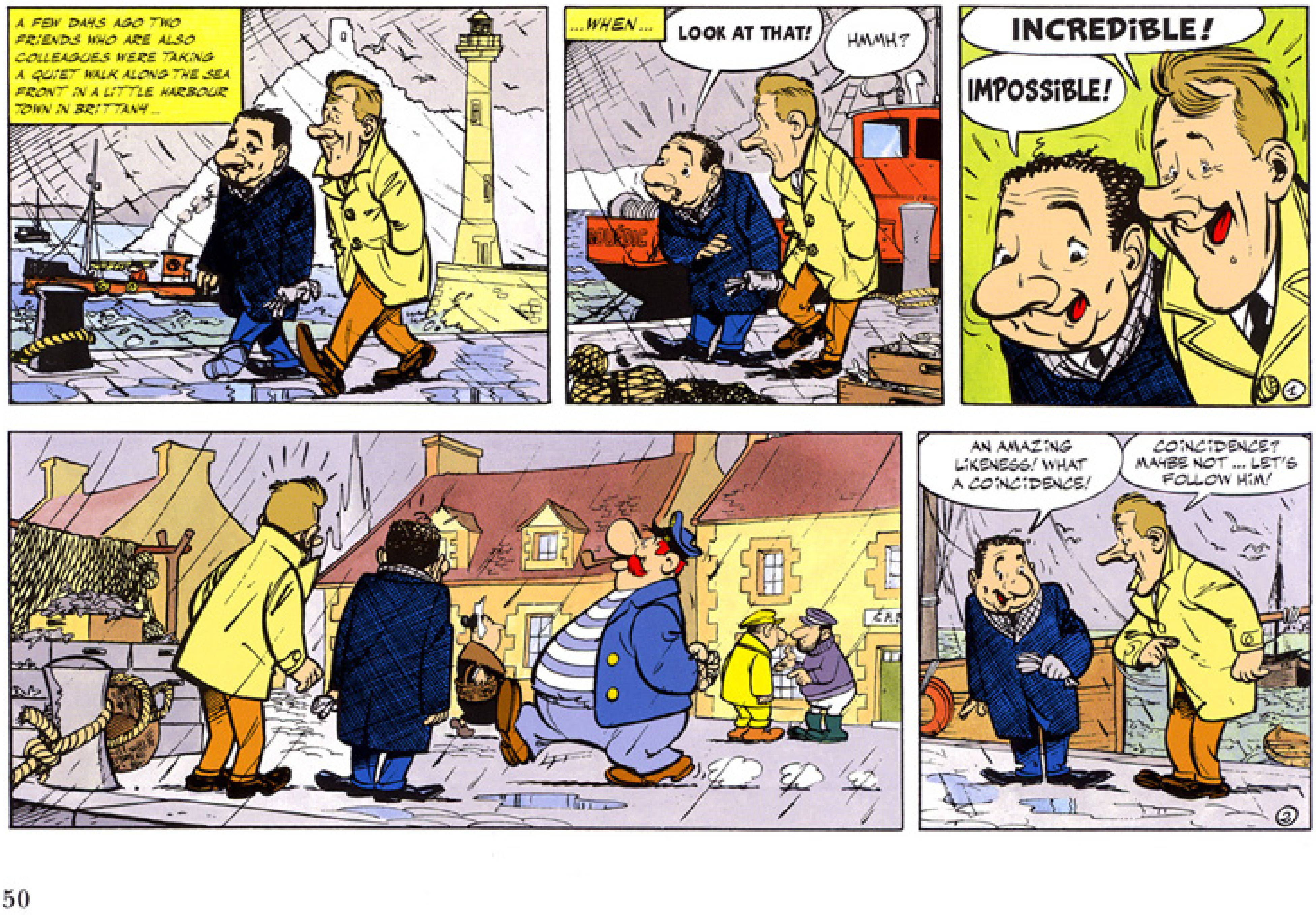
The Obelix family tree

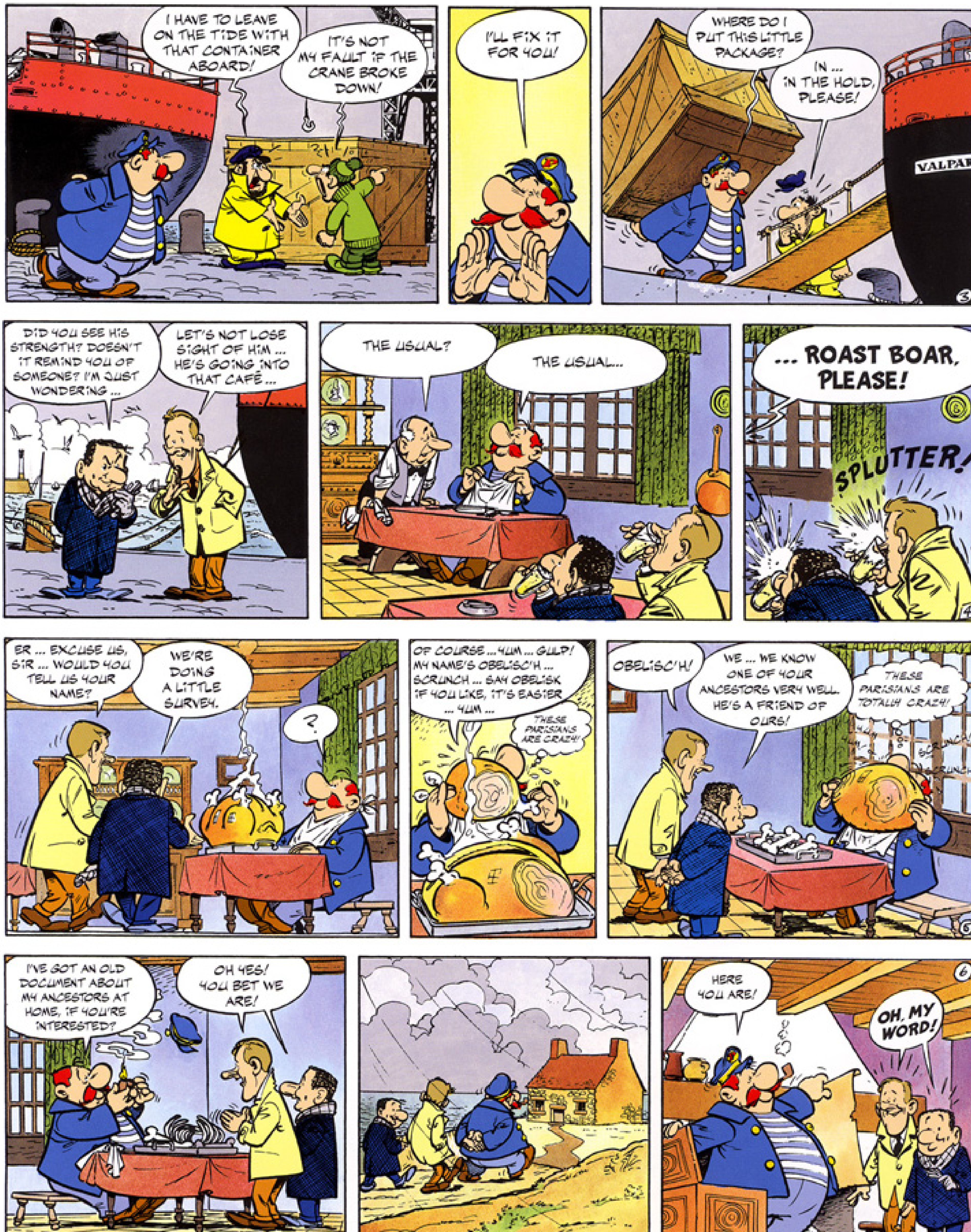
07 February 1963

Written by René Goscinny - Illustrated by Albert Uderzo



(This story was first published in 15 issues of "Pilote", n^os^ 172—186)

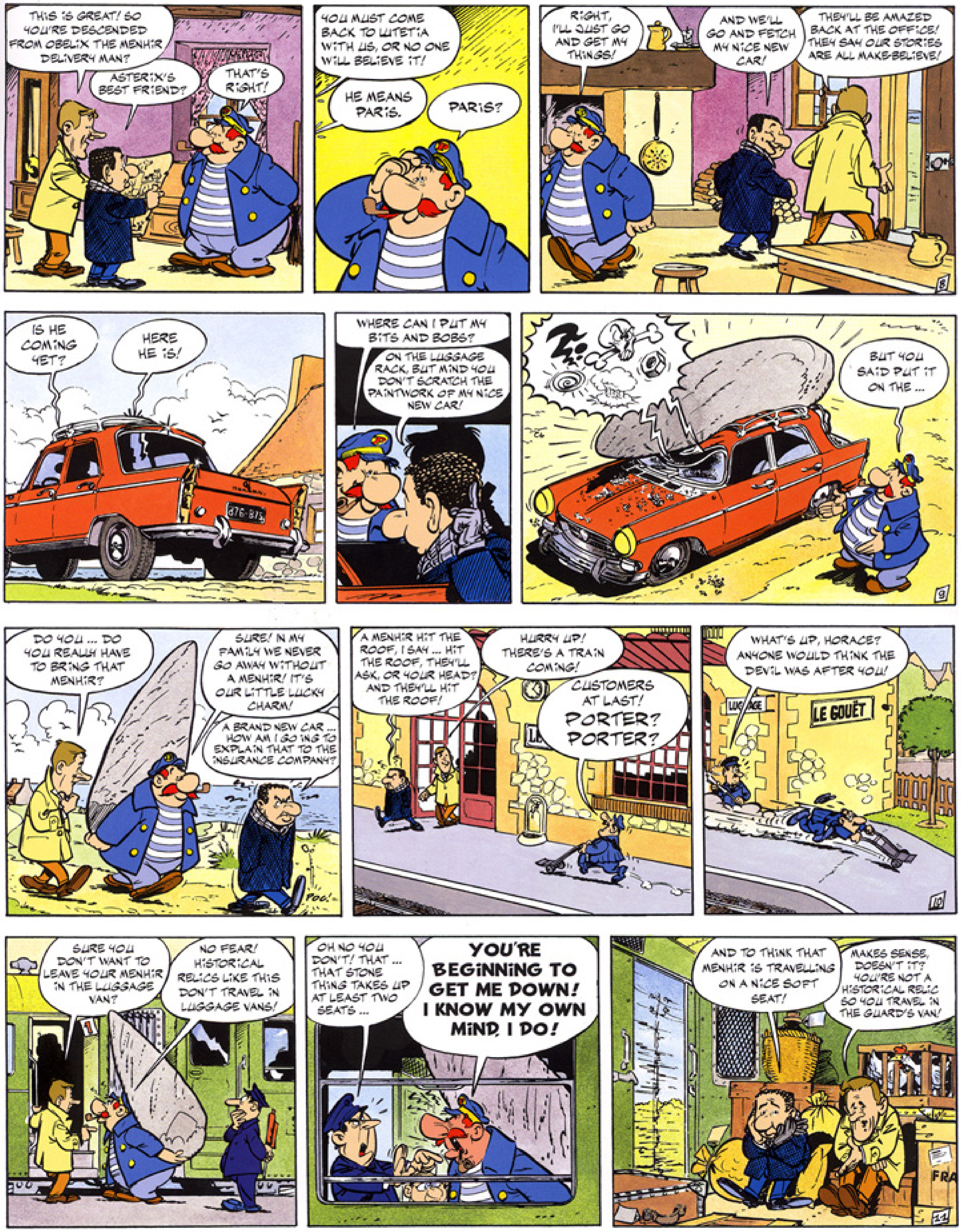




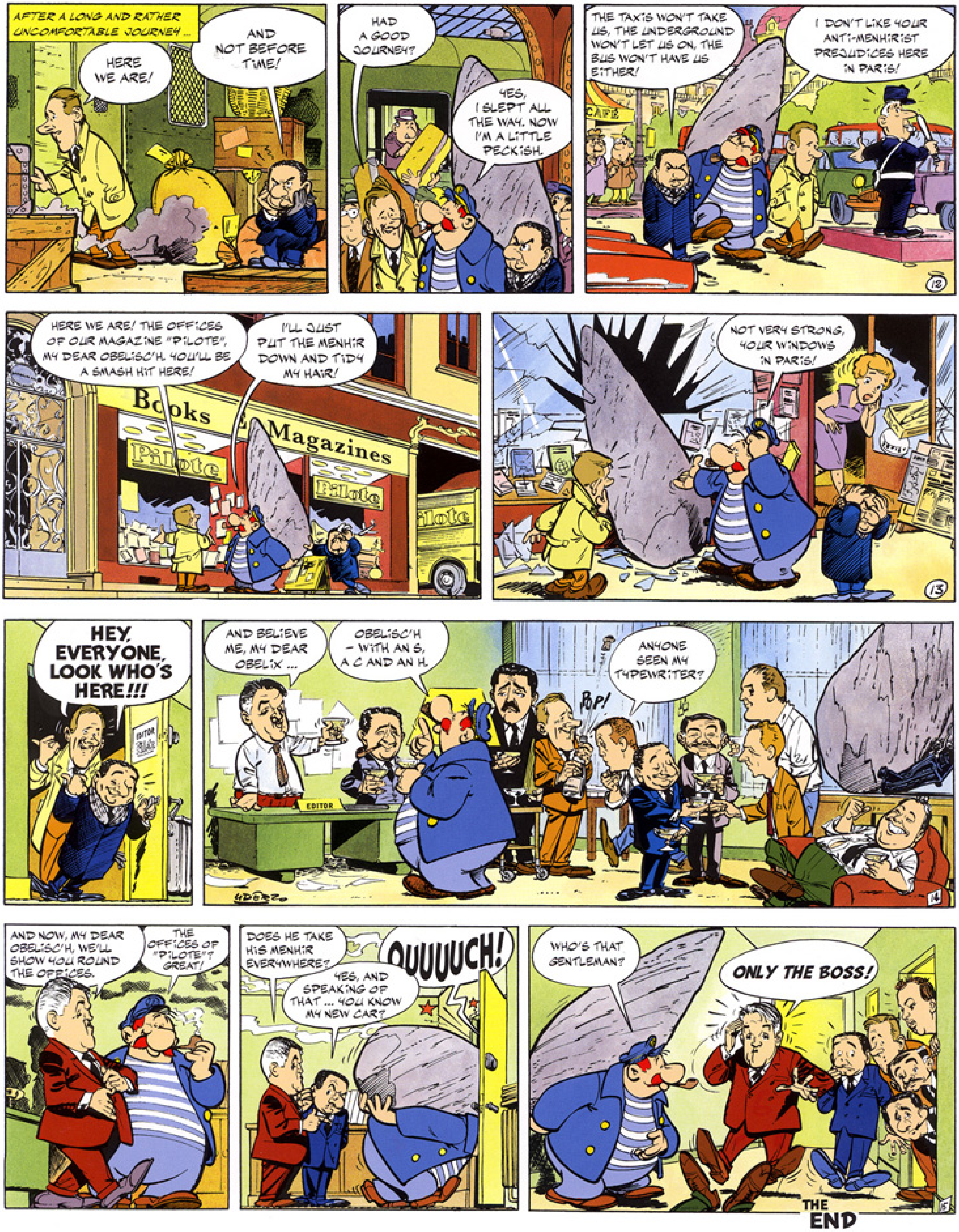
I HAVE TO LEAVE ON THE TIDE WITH THAT CONTAINER ABOARD!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT IF THE CRANE BROKE DOWN!
I'LL FIX IT FOR YOU!
WHERE DO I PUT THIS LITTLE PACKAGE?
IN ... IN THE HOLD, PLEASE!
VALPAR
DID YOU SEE HIS STRENGTH? DOESN'T IT REMIND YOU OF SOMEONE? I'M JUST WONDERING ...
LET'S NOT LOSE SIGHT OF HIM ... HE'S GOING INTO THAT CAFÉ ...
THE USUAL?
THE USUAL...
... ROAST BOAR, PLEASE!
SPLUTTER!
ER ... EXCUSE US, SIR ... WOULD YOU TELL US YOUR NAME?
WE'RE DOING A LITTLE SURVEY.
?
OF COURSE ... YUM ... GULP! MY NAME'S OBELISC'H ... SCRUNCH ... SAY OBELISK IF YOU LIKE, IT'S EASIER ... YUM ...
THESE PARISIANS ARE CRAZY!
OBELISC'H!
WE ... WE KNOW ONE OF YOUR ANCESTORS VERY WELL. HE'S A FRIEND OF OURS!
THESE PARISIANS ARE TOTALLY CRAZY!
SCRUNCH!
I'VE GOT AN OLD DOCUMENT ABOUT MY ANCESTORS AT HOME, IF YOU'RE INTERESTED?
OH YES! YOU BET WE ARE!
HERE YOU ARE!
OH, MY WORD!



8
OBELISC'H
7
OBELISC'H the Fat
FRIEND OF THE PRIVATEER ROBERT SURCOUF, BOTH OF THEM FROM ST MALO. WAS TOLD BY THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON: "I AM PLEASED WITH YOU AND KINDLY DO NOT EAT WHILE I'M TALKING TO YOU!" SCUTTLING THEIR OWN SHIP, HIS ENEMIES SAID: "WE'VE GOT THAT SINKING FEELING AGAIN."
6
OBELISC'H the Boar
COMPANION OF THE KING'S CORSAIR RENÉ DUGUAY-TROUIN. HIS VANQUISHED ENEMIES DECLARED, "BETTER SCUTTLE OUR OWN SHIP AND THEN SCUTTLE."
5
OBELISC'H Count of Brittany
FAMOUS FOR WINNING THE FIRST BATTLE OF MARIGNAN (1514) SINGLE-HANDED.
4
OBELISC'H Lord of the Manor of the Menhir
FOUGHT IN THE 100 YEARS' WAR WITH HIS FRIEND BERTRAND DU GUESCLIN. THE COMMENT, "THESE ENGLISH ARE CRAZY!" IS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM.
LET'S GET THEM! LET'S GET THEM!
FAMILY COAT OF ARMS: A BOAR RECUMBENT ON A BACKGROUND GULES
3
OBELISQUE the Valiant
COVERED HIMSELF WITH GLORY DURING THE CRUSADES. ON HIS RETURN AMAZED HIS FRIENDS BY EATING FOURTEEN BOARS AT A SITTING.
2
OBELISQUE the Hammer
FLATTENED EVERY ENEMY HE MET. FOUGHT AT POITIERS UNDER CHARLES MARTEL. LED HIS MEN INTO THE ATTACK WITH HIS FAMOUS WARCRY OF: "LET'S GET THEM!" IT WAS IN VAIN THAT HE IMPLORED THE ENEMY NOT TO RUN AWAY.
1
OBELIX Gaulish warrior
MENHIR DELIVERY MAN, FOUNDER OF THE DYNASTY.

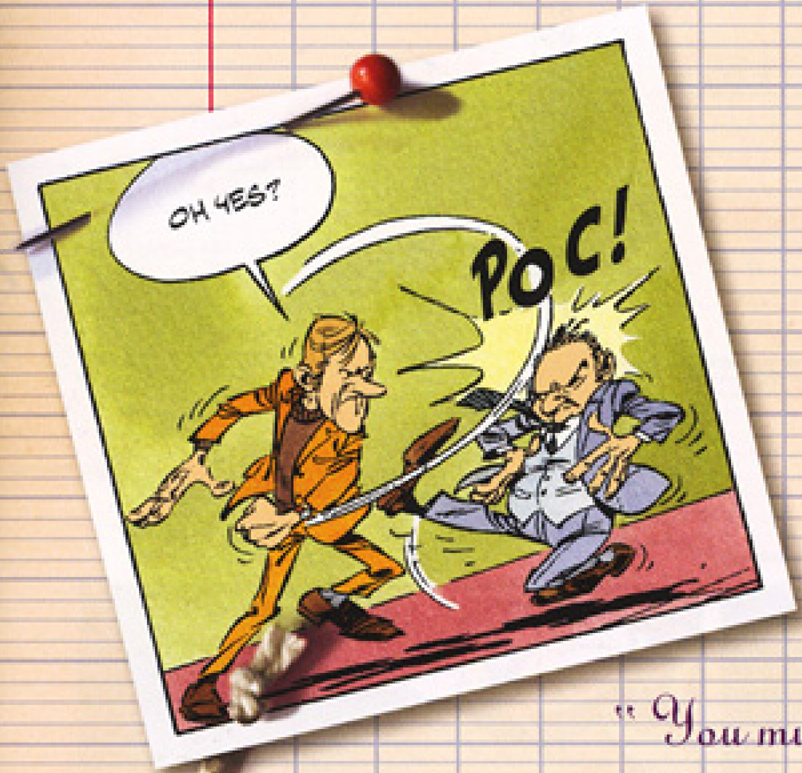


THIS IS GREAT! SO YOU'RE DESCENDED FROM OBELIX THE MENHIR DELIVERY MAN?
ASTERIX'S BEST FRIEND?
THAT'S RIGHT!
YOU MUST COME BACK TO LUTETIA WITH US, OR NO ONE WILL BELIEVE IT!
HE MEANS PARIS.
PARIS?
RIGHT, I'LL JUST GO AND GET MY THINGS!
AND WE'LL GO AND FETCH MY NICE NEW CAR!
THEY'LL BE AMAZED BACK AT THE OFFICE! THEY SAY OUR STORIES ARE ALL MAKE-BELIEVE!
IS HE COMING YET?
HERE HE IS!
WHERE CAN I PUT MY BITS AND BOBS?
ON THE LUGGAGE RACK, BUT MIND YOU DON'T SCRATCH THE PAINTWORK OF MY NICE NEW CAR!
BUT YOU SAID PUT IT ON THE ...
DO YOU ... DO YOU REALLY HAVE TO BRING THAT MENHIR?
SURE! IN MY FAMILY WE NEVER GO AWAY WITHOUT A MENHIR! IT'S OUR LITTLE LUCKY CHARM!
A BRAND NEW CAR ... HOW AM I GOING TO EXPLAIN THAT TO THE INSURANCE COMPANY?
A MENHIR HIT THE ROOF, I SAY ... HIT THE ROOF, THEY'LL ASK, OR YOUR HEAD? AND THEY'LL HIT THE ROOF!
HURRY UP! THERE'S A TRAIN COMING!
CUSTOMERS AT LAST! PORTER? PORTER?
WHAT'S UP, HORACE? ANYONE WOULD THINK THE DEVIL WAS AFTER YOU!
LE GOUËT
SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO LEAVE YOUR MENHIR IN THE LUGGAGE VAN?
NO FEAR! HISTORICAL RELICS LIKE THIS DON'T TRAVEL IN LUGGAGE VANS!
OH NO YOU DON'T! THAT ... THAT STONE THING TAKES UP AT LEAST TWO SEATS ...
YOU'RE BEGINNING TO GET ME DOWN! I KNOW MY OWN MIND, I DO!
AND TO THINK THAT MENHIR IS TRAVELLING ON A NICE SOFT SEAT!
MAKES SENSE, DOESN'T IT? YOU'RE NOT A HISTORICAL RELIC SO YOU TRAVEL IN THE GUARD'S VAN!

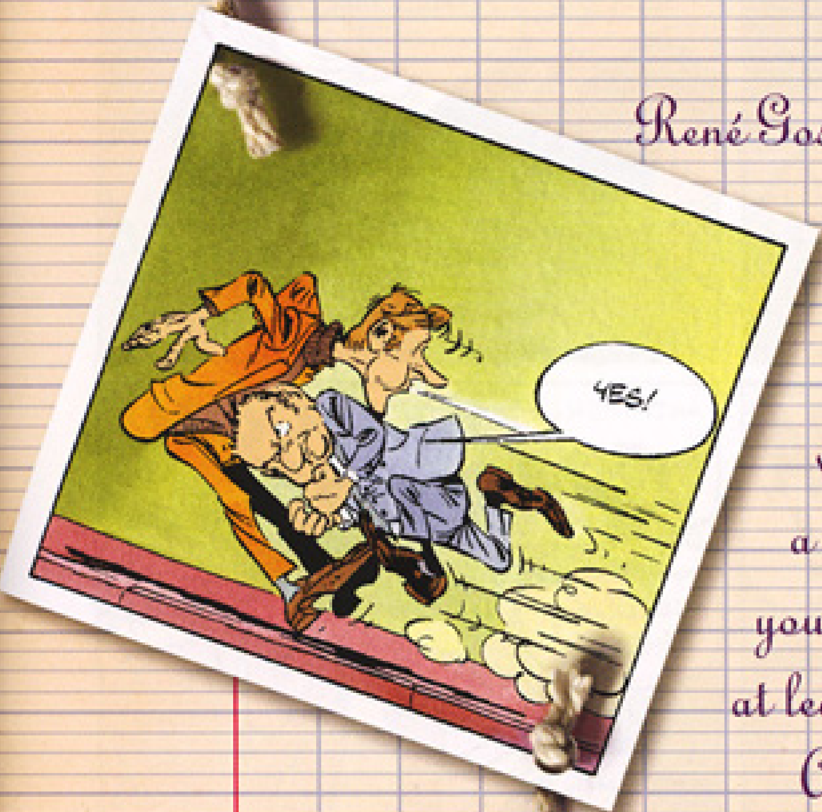

AFTER A LONG AND RATHER UNCOMFORTABLE JOURNEY ...
HERE WE ARE!
AND NOT BEFORE TIME!
HAD A GOOD JOURNEY?
YES, I SLEPT ALL THE WAY. NOW I'M A LITTLE PECKISH.
THE TAXIS WON'T TAKE US, THE UNDERGROUND WON'T LET US ON, THE BUS WON'T HAVE US EITHER!
I DON'T LIKE YOUR ANTI-MENHIRIST PREJUDICES HERE IN PARIS!
CAFÉ
12
HERE WE ARE! THE OFFICES OF OUR MAGAZINE "PILOTE", MY DEAR OBELISC'H. YOU'LL BE A SMASH HIT HERE!
I'LL JUST PUT THE MENHIR DOWN AND TIDY MY HAIR!
Books
Magazines
Pilote
Pilote
Pilote
NOT VERY STRONG, YOUR WINDOWS IN PARIS!
13
HEY, EVERYONE, LOOK WHO'S HERE!!!
EDITOR
AND BELIEVE ME, MY DEAR OBELIX ...
OBELISC'H – WITH AN S, A C AND AN H.
ANYONE SEEN MY TYPEWRITER?
POP!
EDITOR
UDERZO
14
AND NOW, MY DEAR OBELISC'H, WE'LL SHOW YOU ROUND THE OFFICES.
THE OFFICES OF "PILOTE"? GREAT!
DOES HE TAKE HIS MENHIR EVERYWHERE?
YES, AND SPEAKING OF THAT ... YOU KNOW MY NEW CAR?
OUUUUCH!
WHO'S THAT GENTLEMAN?
ONLY THE BOSS!
15
THE END

How do they think it all up ?

August 1993



"What gave you the idea of Asterix?"
"Who writes the story and who does the drawing?"
"You must have been good at Latin at school, weren't you?"
"Who are you?"



René Goscinny and I were often and regularly asked such questions, and I still have to answer them today, almost forty-five years after our character Asterix was born.

Some of the questions are not quite the same as those we were asked at first. For instance, "Do you actually make a living out of your little so-and-sos?" has become, "Hey, you must earn oodles of boodle with that lot, don't you?" Well, at least that may be a sign that our job has become more respectable.

And we have always appreciated the elegance, delicacy and attention some readers have shown towards us. Even in the 1960s, we liked responding in our own way in "Pilote", the thinking person's strip cartoon magazine, by answering the question of how an idea is born.



Dear readers, on the next page I offer the answer for your mature consideration, asking myself as always the eternal question, "Will they like it?"

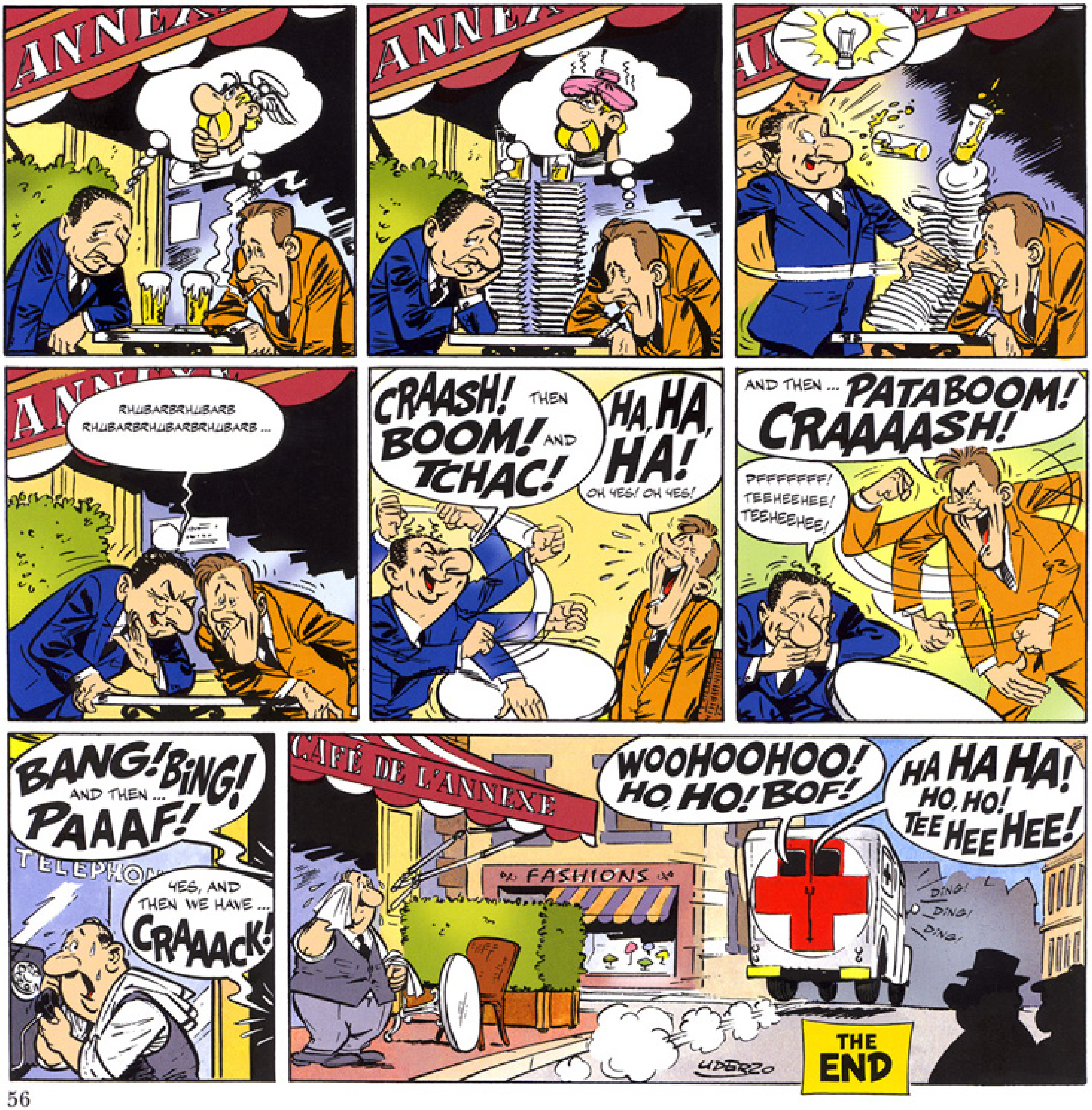
Albert Uderzo

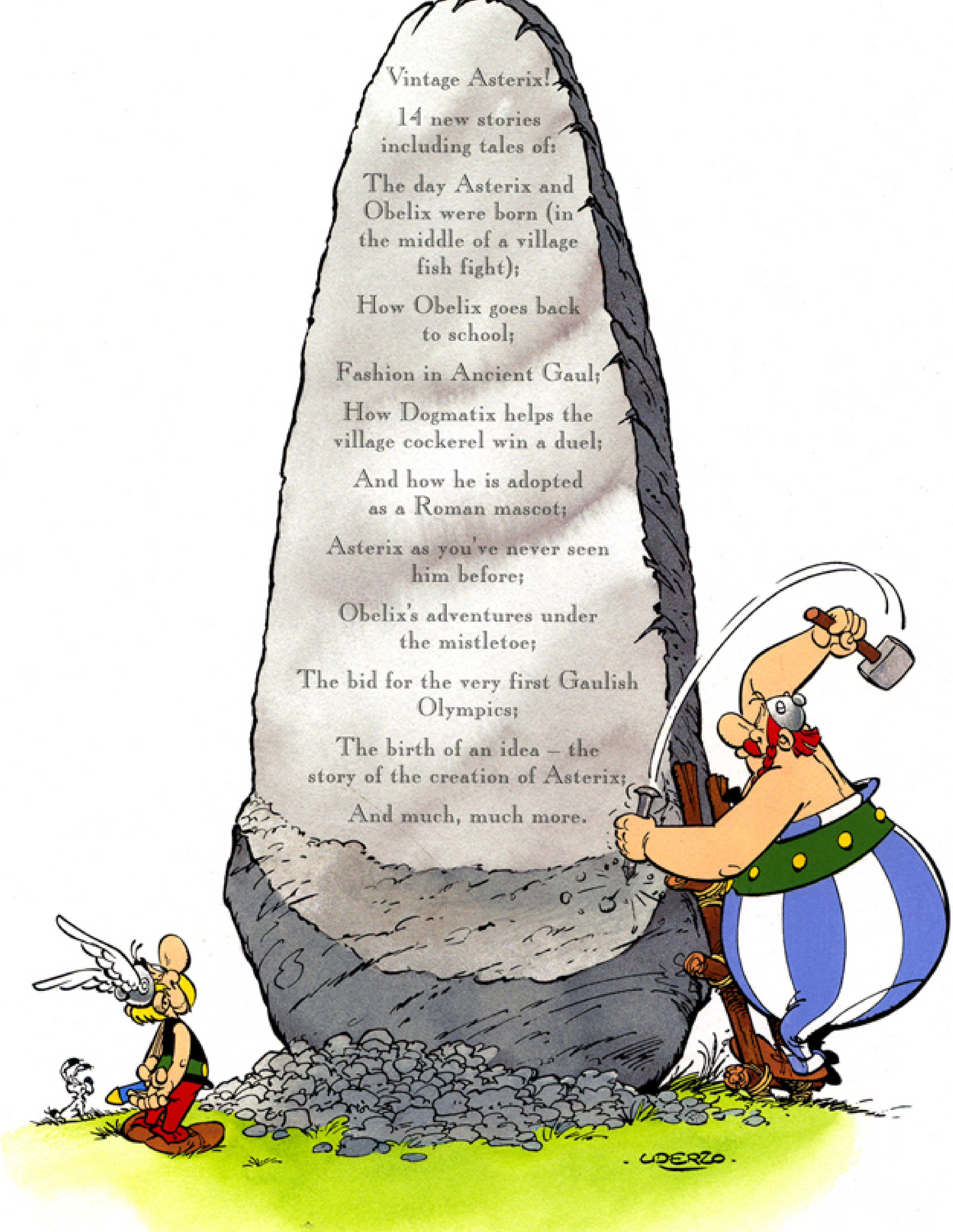
The birth of an idea

25 October 1962

Written by René Goscinny - Illustrated by Albert Uderzo

"Pilote", n° 157





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